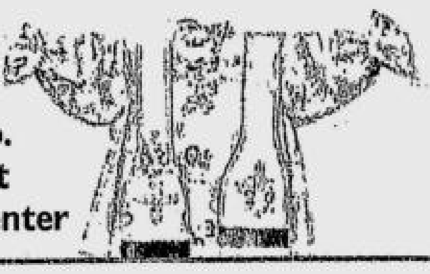
■ E tainment / A3-1

The thoroughly independent Jaclyn Jose

■ Lifestyle / C1

500 images of Sto. Niño on exhibit at PNB Financial Center



■ World / A7

Rosemary Kennedy, sister of JFK; 86

■ Metro / A17

WPD top dog sniffs way to commendation

JOB Market

Get that job to change your life

Who eats fish in tsunami land? WHO chief, that's who

FISH BE WITH YOU!

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka—The chief of the World Health Organization said Saturday he has been eating fish in tsunami-affected countries without problems.

"Fish is a good source of protein and I am eating fish

WHO/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Millionaire clears road but doesn't want to be named

By Romulo O. Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

REAL, Quezon—Unbeknownst to the general public, a construction firm owned by a multimillionaire from Pasig City has been taking on the lion's share of clearing an estimated 15-kilometer stretch of the national road in

MILLIONAIRE/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Sunday, January 9, 2005 ★★ 64 pages / 8 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 32 P18

website: www.inq7.net

HELP THE TSUNAMI VICTIMS

TEARS stream into the sands of time and memory. An impenetrable wave separates life and death. A silent scream. In Puri, south of the Indian state of Orissa, Bhubaneshwar, Indian artist Sudarshan Patnaik captures and memorializes the profile of a victim of the apocalyptic disaster that swept through 11 countries from Asia to Africa.

AFP

Pinoys less gloomy in '05

But GMA approval rating still going down, says Ibon poll

By Luige A. del Puerto

DESPITE a year hounded by fiscal woes and runaway oil prices, many Filipinos are much less pessimistic about the prospects of the economy in 2005, according to the latest Ibon Foundation survey.

The number of respondents who said the economy would worsen actually went down to 33.59 percent in December 2004, from 53.26 percent in the previous Ibon survey of October 2004, Ibon said.

Of the 1,313 respondents interviewed nationwide, 34.88 percent said they believed the economy would remain the same. Only 27.87 percent had said that in October.

But if they were not quite gloomy about their economic situation, those surveyed were decidedly dissatisfied with President Macapagal-Arroyo's performance, according to the survey.

The survey said 79.89 percent of respondents felt that the President's performance was unsatisfactory. The figure was 76.33 percent in October and 55.8 percent in April.

"Overall, the satisfactory rating of the President has been going down. And it has gone to its lowest so far in December while her unsatisfactory rating has gone near the roof this December," Ibon research director Antonio Tujan told a press briefing.

Explaining the discrepancy between people's responses on the economy and their disapproval of the President, Tujan said that it could be because Filipinos were culturally inclined to be hopeful.

"You have a situation where even if the economy is bad, [people will say] 'maybe something could still be done about it'," he said.

Those who felt that the President did her job well fell to 6.25 percent in December, from 8.46 percent in October, and 25.20 percent in April, Ibon said.

The survey was conducted between Dec. 20 and 29, 2004. It

PINOYS/ A6

107
NE
303
U.S. NAVY
KAY

AP

FLASHBACK to another horror for Fil-American sailor Joviena Kay who finds herself on the same US Navy carrier, the USS Abraham Lincoln, that rescued her from the devastation of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption 13 years ago. Now, she serves as cook and administrative assistant on the same carrier that's helping victims in Aceh.

FROM PINATUBO TO ACEH

Fil-Am back on US ship that rescued her

IT WAS horror that descended on Joviena and her mother Marlene when volcanic ash from the eruptions of Mount Pinatubo began to rain down on their home in the Philippines. She was a 6-year-old girl then.

Now, on board the USS Abraham Lincoln and looking across the sea toward the devastated coast of Sumatra, Seaman Joviena Kay remembered the same deck 13 years ago, packed with evacuees from another great Asian disaster.

She was among those evacuees.

"It's horrible, what happened to those people out there," she says of the up to 100,000 people swept to death in Indonesia by the waves.

The horror of flight from the 1991 Pinatubo eruption, which killed more than 700 people in its wake, has never left Joviena.

When friends urged them to reach a US Navy vessel evacuating American citizens from the disaster area, Joviena and her

FIL-AM/ A4

Lovers no more, just 'friends'

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood glamour couple Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston have split, his publicist has confirmed.

"We would like to announce that after seven years together we have decided to formally separate," the couple said in a statement released Friday.

"For those who follow these sorts of things, we would like to explain that our separation is not the result of any speculation reported by the tabloid media," the actors said.

Tabloid gossip has been linking Pitt to Angelina Jolie, his co-star in an upcoming thriller called "Mr. and Mrs. Smith."

The couple didn't indicate if they plan to divorce, and publicist Cindy Guagenti declined to comment beyond the statement, which also said, "We happily remain committed and caring friends with great love and admiration for one another."

The separation, first reported on People magazine's website, comes four-and-a-half years after

LOVERS/ A4

THE SPLIT of Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston is rumored to have been caused by a third party, Angelina Jolie.

PNP links Islamic converts' group to Jemaah Islamiya

By Fe Zamora
and Leila B. Salaverria

THE ALLEGED PLOT to sow violence during today's celebration of the feast of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo was hatched by suspected members of the militant Hukbong Khalid Trinidad (HKT), the officer in charge of the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Agency said yesterday.

According to Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, the HKT—supposedly named after a fallen Muslim militant—is a cell of the Rajah Solaiman Movement (RSM), an organization of Islamic converts with alleged links to the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Jemaah Islamiyah.

"The HKT/RSM should be taken very seriously as it could be even more dangerous than the Abu Sayyaf group or the MILF," Mendoza said. He said the HKT/RSM was being funded by foreign countries that he did not identify.

Mendoza said the 16 people arrested in a raid Friday at the Islamic Information Center in Malate, Manila, were members of the HKT.

The raiders had said they confiscated improvised firearms and explosive devices, which were purportedly intended to be detonated during the Black Nazarene procession.

But National Capital Region Police Director Avelino Razon Jr. had said it might be premature to conclude that the annual procession was the target.

Police yesterday filed complaints of illegal possession of explosives and firearms against five of the 16 arrested at the Islamic Information Center, which is on the third floor of the Agoncillo Building at the corner of Taft Avenue and

PNP LINKS/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and eastern sections of Luzon and Visayas and the whole of Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG/PDI RESEARCH/01/09/04

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2005
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Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

NAT'L BUDGET NEXT TARGET

Special session elates GMA

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac and Cynthia D. Balana

ALTHOUGH the three-day special session of Congress ended Friday with not a single bill ratified, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday still expressed elation over the passage of the lateral attrition bill by the Senate.

"Once more, I would like to thank the Senate for the passage of the lateral attrition bill, as I anticipate that this will be cleared smoothly through bicameral consensus with the House," Ms Arroyo said in a statement.

Next on the President's wish list is the speedy passage by Congress of the proposed national budget for 2005, which the House approved last year and is now being deliberated in the Senate. The government is currently operating on its old budget.

"The second thing the President wants to happen is for the speedy passage of the budget to finance her 10-point program," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a radio interview.

Ms Arroyo said the special session, dismissed by the opposition as a waste of time and unnecessary, proved useful in putting the country's fiscal house in order.

"It is a positive harbinger of the new year and marks the will and vigor of the executive-legislative partnership to ride the tide of national hope," Ms Arroyo said.

Bunye said the special session produced "remarkable results" despite the opinion of "political hecklers."

The lateral attrition bill, also called the Accountability Reform Act, was approved on second and third reading by the Senate by a vote of 13-2. The bill provides a system of rewards and penalties for state workers in revenue-collecting agencies.

Bunye said the bicameral conference committee was set to meet on Monday to approve the final version of the bill and the President expects to sign the measure into law within the week.

"The President was very happy because we were having the Cabinet meeting (on Friday night) when she heard the news that the Senate had passed the lateral attrition bill, and the (members of the) Cabinet applauded," Bunye said.

The lateral attrition bill would be the second revenue measure to be ratified by Congress. The first—which increases the excise taxes on cigarette and alcohol products or the so-called sin products—was signed into law last month.

Ms Arroyo had proposed eight measures to raise P80 billion in additional revenues to address the government's serious fiscal problems.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said the lateral attrition bill would institutionalize a system of attrition on those who fail to deliver revenue or collection goals.

Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the Senate ways and means committee, said the "carrot-and-stick, bonus or the boot" measure, would not only "kickstart lethargic revenue collection" but would serve as a "potent anti-smuggling tool" as well.

He said that under the approved Senate version, employees of the bureaus of internal revenue and customs would be entitled to 20 percent of whatever is collected in excess of the target set by the Development and Budget Coordinating Council.

At the weekly Sulo media forum, Drilon admitted that those who fail to meet the target set by their respective collection agencies would be forced to retire from government service.

Those affected, however, could still appeal to the Civil Service Commission or the Career Executive Service Board, he said.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said the ratification of the bill was a "victory for the man on the street."

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles also expressed confidence the measure would be ratified by both houses of Congress on Monday and signed into law by the President the next day.

During the three-day special session, the House was able to act on two more revenue-generating measures which called for a two-percent across-the-board increase in the Value-Added Tax (VAT) and the amendments to the proposed Rationalization of Fiscal Incentives Act.

Both measures are expected to generate P50 billion in revenues for the government.

Solon says race tracks owe gov't P8.4B

A CONGRESSMAN yesterday urged the government to focus on efficiently collecting taxes like the P8.4 billion in uncollected amusement taxes from race track owners, instead of imposing new levies to generate P80 billion in additional revenues.

Rep. Alfredo Maranon III of Negros Occidental said it was ironic that Congress was working hard on the proposed new tax measures to improve the country's credit rating when the Bureau of Internal Revenue was "lukewarm" to the collection of unpaid taxes from other businessmen.

According to Maranon, he had yet to see the BIR exerting efforts to collect the 30 percent amusement tax from race track owners which could support the country's programs on agriculture, education, health and housing.

Based on the computation of the National Tax Research Center, he said, the government has failed to collect the amusement tax since 1997.

Maranon said the Manila Jockey Club Inc. and the Philippine Racing Association Inc. owed the government the following amounts in taxes: P861.874 million in 1997; P1.129 billion in 1998; P1.235 billion in 1999; P1.376 billion in 2000; P1.775 billion in 2001, and P2.039 billion in 2002 for a total of P8.4 billion.

He explained that under the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), operators of racing clubs should pay 30 percent in amusement tax based on gross receipts. This is on top of the local amusement tax based on admission fees. *Cynthia D. Balana*

How successful was Noli last year? Let us count the ways

By Jerome Aning

HOW USEFUL is the Vice President as a public servant?

Vice President Noli de Castro yesterday listed his achievements last year in housing, overseas Filipino workers affairs and consumer prices.

As chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, De Castro said he ordered the streamlining and simplification of operations of the key shelter agencies (KSAs) to save on expenses, improve collections, and deliver quick and responsive service.

He directed KSAs such as the Home Development Mutual Fund or Pag-Ibig Fund, Home Guaranty Corp., National Housing Authority, National Home Mortgage Finance Corp., and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board to efficiently dispose of their nonperforming assets in order to be more viable and self-reliant.

The HUDCC, with the help of the KSAs, implements shelter plans for the poor. Of the 144,756 households with security of tenure, 70,927 went to socialized housing. The proclamation of 31 sites with a total land area of 356.67 hectares for socialized housing benefited more than 23,353 households.

The NHMFC, from January to November last year, delivered housing assistance to 13,331 beneficiaries of the Community Mortgage Program.

The Pag-Ibig Fund last year extended P11.96 billion for the acquisition of 32,327 housing units under the end-user financing program. It also extended P3.5 billion in developmental loans corresponding to 15,515 units under the institutional financing program.

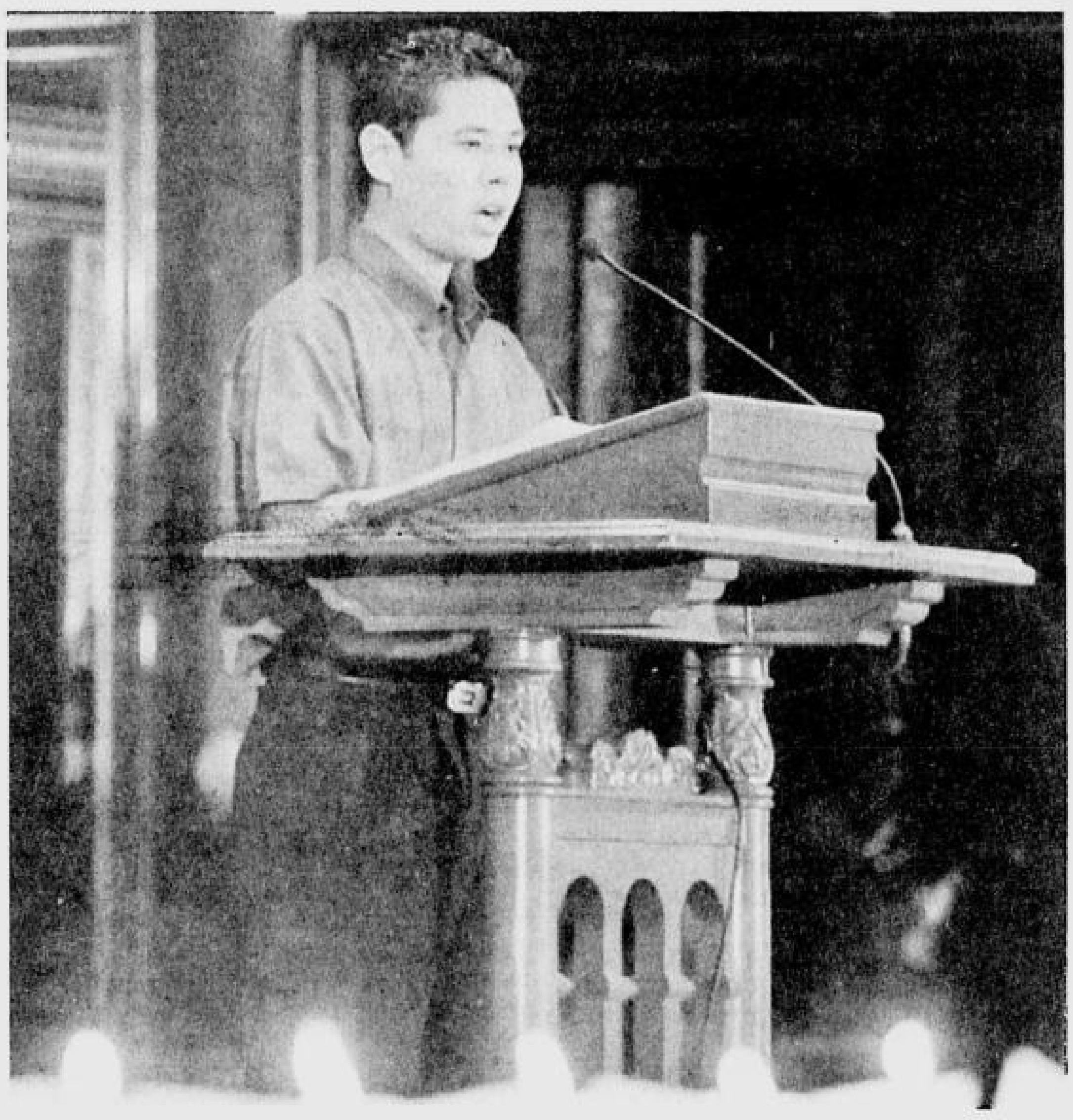
The housing sector also provided employment to 731,355 urban and rural construction workers.

As the designated Palace adviser on OFW concerns, the Vice President flew to Tripoli in Libya on Nov. 26-28 where he successfully got the Libyan government's commitment to hire more skilled OFWs.

De Castro was also able to finalize the resumption of the RP-Libya Joint Committee Meeting and the RP-Libya "oil talks."

He also represented the President in Ramalah, Palestine, at the burial of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat who died last year.

De Castro worked to keep the supply and prices of basic goods and commodities stable last Christmas and persuaded traders and businessmen not to increase the prices of goods.



TSUNAMI SURVIVOR
Jay Decayco, who survived the tsunami that hit Thailand late last month, recounts his ordeal during the special Mass for tsunami victims held at Malacañang yesterday. Decayco was a pianist at the Sofitel Magic Lagoon Resort and Spa on Khao Lak island. His girlfriend, Kathryn Joy Lomadilla, a dancer at the same resort, perished. Decayco recovered her remains and brought her ashe's home last week.
REM ZAMORA

Court names 3-man body to assess Naia 3

THE COURT which is hearing the Naia Terminal 3 expropriation case has appointed a three-man commission to determine the real market value of the terminal built by a consortium led by Philippine International Air Terminal Co. (Piatco) which the government expropriated in December last year.

Named to the three-man body by the Pasay Regional Trial Court were a former secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways, a former commissioner of the Commission of Audit and a former Air Force officer.

In a two-page order, Pasay RTC Branch 117 Judge Henrick F. Gingoyon appointed Dr. Fiorello R. Estuar, DPWH secretary in 1988-90 during the Aquino administration and a structural engineer; Sofronio B. Ursal, COA commissioner in 1992-99 and currently the director of Transparency International-Philippines, and Angelo I. Panganiban, a former Philippine Air Force pilot and an aeronautical engineer.

"They were chosen because they are competent and disinterested persons," said Mary Jemelle Obispo, the Pasay RTC branch 117 clerk of court. *Nancy Carvajal*

27 Pinoys arrive home from Iraq

TWENTY-SEVEN overseas Filipino workers based in the northern Iraqi flashpoint city of Mosul arrived in Manila last night after they were repatriated with the help of the Philippine Embassy in Turkey.

The Filipinos included Ailyn Mateo and Cesar Arana, who were injured in last month's terrorist bombing of the American base Camp Glory in Mosul in the deadliest single attack on US forces in Iraq.

Eleven of the workers returned for medical reasons, the Department of Foreign Affairs said. Twelve others, who initially lacked visas to go to Iraq but later obtained them through representation by the embassy, returned for various reasons, including the expiration of their contracts.

The OFWs were employed by the Adana-based Serka Group of Companies, which shouldered their repatriation expenses, Ambassador to Turkey Ofelia Castaño said.

They were welcomed on arrival by officials of the DFA's Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration. *Jerome Aning*

Dayrit: No 'meningo' in Metro Manila

By Jerome Aning

THERE has been no outbreak of the dreaded meningococcemia in Metro Manila, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said yesterday.

Meningococcemia, which is an acute infection of the bloodstream, is endemic in the country. "The bacteria exists in the population. It's there the whole year [round] but it does not always cause disease," Dayrit said.

People carrying the neissera meningitides bacteria could actually be healthy. "So there's no cause for alarm," he said in an interview over radio dzBB.

Dayrit said the cases of a three-month-old infant and a 26-year-old tricycle driver, both under observation for suspected meningococcemia at the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Pasay City and Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center in Manila, respectively, did not necessarily mean the disease had reached the metropolis.

If it turns out the two cases are indeed meningo, the DOH still has to determine if the patients contracted the infection while they were in Baguio or from someone already infected and who had traveled from Baguio to Manila.

"We will treat the cases, track down their history, monitor the conditions of their kin and people they were in contact with so we can prevent it from further spreading," Dayrit explained.

With reports of meningococcemia cases in Baguio City and elsewhere, the secretary described the country as being on "alert" status.

"It's like the typhoon signals, we have to be prepared for the onslaught of the storm," he said.

He predicted that when the cold season ends, the number of meningococcemia cases would significantly decrease within two to three weeks.

He said people with high fever and other flu-like symptoms should not immediately presume they have meningococcemia, especially if they did not go to Baguio or had any contact with someone with the disease.

"But if you're worried, take antibiotics if you want. Although you don't really have to, especially if you've had no contact with an infected person," Dayrit said.

He encouraged the public to maintain a healthy lifestyle by eating good food, getting exercise and plenty of rest, so they don't easily catch the disease.

Inquirer reporter to be buried today

THE REMAINS of former INQUIRER reporter Roy S. de Guzman will be interred today, his 40th birthday, in a crypt at the Our Lady of Loreto Church in Sampaloc, Manila.

The interment will follow the 9 a.m. Mass at the church, according to the late journalist's brother, Rodolfo de Guzman Jr.

De Guzman died on Nov. 10, 2004, of heart failure after several days in the intensive care unit of the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City.

He was in the first batch of reporters to join the INQUIRER in December 1985. He covered politics, the Moro National Liberation Front, the communist movement and the House of Representatives.

Just visiting, Erap says of his Cabinet

HONG KONG—Deposed President Joseph Estrada said an interview yesterday that he had no hidden agenda in meeting with his former Cabinet in Hong Kong where he is recovering after knee replacement surgery.

"They were just visiting. There is no hidden agenda," Estrada told the South China Morning Post after half of his former Cabinet flew in to visit him at the Adventist Hospital.

"They are all my friends. They are my official family," said the 67-year-old, who is recuperating after surgery to replace arthritic knees.

Former Finance Secretary Jose Pardo and ex-senator Francisco Tatad were among several former Estrada officials who visited the former leader here.

Reports of a new antigovernment plot emerged in the Philippines after top movie star and presidential challenger Fernando Poe Jr., a friend and supporter of Estrada's, died on Dec. 14, 2004.

The military in late December questioned two colonels after allegations of a suspected new plot against President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration surfaced.

Estrada said the Arroyo administration was "paranoid."

"At the funeral of Poe, there were so many people, but in Malacañang, there were tanks with barbed wire. You can see the contrast," he told the Post.

Estrada, who is being tried on corruption charges, arrived in the former British colony on Dec. 27 for the knee operation accompanied by his family and several police escorts.

It was the first time Estrada had traveled out of the Philippines since he was placed under house arrest in 2001 on charges of plundering the country of $80 million during his 30 months in office.

The former leader faces life in jail or even the death penalty if convicted.

Estrada insists he is innocent of the charges against him. AFP

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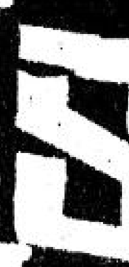
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RP picked to head UN 'super panel' on terror

By Jerome Aning

THE PHILIPPINES began its second year of membership in the United Nations Security Council with a bang with Ambassador Lauro Baja Jr., the country's permanent representative to the UN, being chosen unanimously to head the new "super committee" on terrorism.

"Our selection acknowledges our role in the council during our first year and presents the Philippines with a new challenge in its last year of membership," said Baja, after being informed that the Philippines would chair the body's 1566 Committee.

"More importantly," he said, "the country's selection recognizes the contributions of the Philippines, under the leadership of President Macapagal-Arroyo, to the national, regional and global fight against terrorism."

Resolution No. 1566, adopted by the Security Council on Oct. 8, 2004, calls for the establishment of a committee that would consider and submit recommendations on practical measures to be imposed upon individuals, groups or entities involved in or associated with terrorist activities.

These measures, according to Baja, include more effective procedures considered to be appropriate for bringing these individuals, groups or entities to justice.

These include the prosecution or extradition, freezing of financial assets, preventing movement through the territories of UN member-states, and curtailing access to arms and related material of terrorists.

The ambassador said the 1566 Committee is also tasked to consider the possibility of establishing an international fund to compensate victims of terrorist acts and their families.

This fund, he said, could be financed through voluntary contributions and consist in part of assets seized from terrorist organizations, their members and sponsors.

According to the envoy, the 1566 Committee will submit its recommendations to the Security Council and coordinate its activities with three other committees on terrorism previously established by the body, namely, the 1267 Sanctions Committee on al-Qaida and Taliban, the 1373 Counter-Terrorism Committee and the 1540 Committee on Measures to Prevent the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction to Non-State Actors.

"We would soon enter into the difficult negotiations for specific terms of reference for the new body and guidelines for the implementation of its mandate by the 191 member-states of the UN," Baja said.

The Philippines holds the distinction of being the only member of the Security Council to hold two committee chairmanships and three committee vice chairmanships.

Baja continues to sit as chair of the Sanctions Committee on Somalia after the Security Council asked him to continue overseeing the committee in view of recent political developments that may enable the troubled country to emerge from being a failed state.

The Philippines is vice chair of the 1540 Sanctions Committee, which was formed to make it difficult for terrorist groups to acquire weapons of mass destruction, and the Sanctions Committee on Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Cops nab RP's 9th most wanted

POLICE have captured the country's ninth most wanted criminal.

Emerson Alzate was arrested the other day by the Cagayan Valley police and the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) team at a house in Barangay San Joaquin, Pasig City.

Alzate carried a P600,000 bounty for a string of criminal cases, including the murder of his father-in-law Rodrigo de Dawag on May 11, 2004. He was also wanted for allegedly masterminding the kidnapping of Lorenza Verganilla in Malig, Isabela, 20 days later.

Alzate also faces separate cases of murder, illegal possession of explosives, and violation of the Omnibus Election Code.

Alzate was the first person on the Philippine National Police's list of 20 most wanted criminals arrested this year.

Other criminals on the list are Corey Dickpus, Eduardo Iran and his brother Rolando, Harold Fajardo, ex-policeman Allan Estrada, Raul Villar and Ben Ventura.

The PNP began an aggressive hunt for fugitives when Director General Edgar Aglipay assumed office last Aug. 23.

Aglipay required each field commander to arrest at least five crime suspects every month in their respective areas of responsibility. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Calling all San Juans

THE SAN Juan clan of Urdaneta City (Pangasinan) will hold its first grand reunion on Jan. 15 at the CAP Building in Urdaneta City. For more information, clan members may contact Lito San Juan through cell phone no. 0917-7932837 or Baby SJ Bautista at 0917-629-5808.

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MEMBERS of church and militant groups show their support for the strike of farm workers at Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac which has been attended by violence. Now they fear a whitewash of the cases. JOAN BONDOC

Luisita whitewash feared

By Norman Bordadora
and Christian V. Esguerra

THE KILUSANG Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) yesterday expressed fears of a whitewash in the shooting and wounding of two striking farm workers at Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac on Wednesday.

The suspicion was raised, according to Willy Marbella, KMP spokesperson, after police at a nearby checkpoint failed to help the strikers as the armed suspects harassed them and then shot at the picket line.

The farmers said that when the policemen finally approached the suspects, the law enforcers addressed the armed men as "sir."

"Does this mean that they knew the assailants and they were the policemen's superiors?" he asked.

"At the time of the incident itself, the police in the area hid instead of defending the strikers from their assailants. Now [Central Luzon police director] Chief Supt. Rowland Albano says that it is their standard procedure to hide upon hearing shots being fired, but is it not obvious where the shots came from and who shot whom?" Marbella said.

The two victims are still confined at the Ramos General Hospital in Tarlac. Jorge Loveland has been declared out of danger while Ernesto Ramos is still in critical condition.

The KMP said the police even got the plate number of the suspects' Nissan Patrol wrong.

Carl Anthony Ala, KMP public information officer, said the police listed the vehicle's plate number as CLA 119, which belongs on an Isuzu jeepney in Bulacan.

"Besides, how could the police see the plate number of the vehicle when they were hiding or was it their intent to [give] the wrong plate number?" Ala said.

He said the correct plate number of the 1993 Nissan Patrol was TLA 119 and it was traced to an Efren de los Santos of 8197 Yabut Circle, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City.

"This is the guy that has to be investigated. What is his connection to the Cojuangco-Aquinos? Why are high-powered rifles also allowed in the hacienda?" Ala added.

Meanwhile, the reward dangled by Albano for the capture of the suspects in the latest Hacienda Luisita shooting has lured bounty hunters.

At least six groups of civilians have volunteered to look for the suspects, according to Albano.

Their goal—the P50,000 reward Albano said he was offering and which would come out of his pocket.

Police yesterday released a sketch of one of the gunmen, who stands at least 5'6" with a slim build and light complexion.

Wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and black pants, he was allegedly one of four men who alighted from a Nissan Patrol and fired at Ramos and Loveland, witnesses told investigators.

"We're closing in on the suspect,"Albano told the INQUIRER yesterday. "I've received calls from at least six people. They asked for my permission to form their own teams and look for the suspect."

Fil-Am back on US ship . . .

From page A1

mother packed a few clothes and rushed to the base in Olongapo City, its streets flooded by a tropical storm.

Married to a Navy man stationed in the United States, Marlene carried an expired identification card, but the guards let them through the gates and onto the USS Abraham Lincoln. The Lincoln led a 23-ship armada that sealifted 20,000 military dependents, children and civilian workers from the area.

Joviena, now a cook and administrative assistant aboard the Lincoln, remembers the long lines of evacuees, the kindness of the crew—and a monotonous diet of sandwiches.

After nearly a year in the United States living with grandparents, she and her mother returned to Olongapo, where Marlene owned a bar frequented by sailors. But the US forces were pulling out of the country, Joviena's father had died, education costs were rising and the prospects of a job in the Philippines, even with a degree, were dim.

Following tradition

So after a year in college studying hotel and restaurant management, she followed a now time-honored tradition in the Philippines: she joined the US Navy, and found herself on the same carrier that had rescued her.

Soon, the Lincoln, with Joviena aboard, was steaming at high speed toward the Sumatra coast, where entire communities had been obliterated and emergency aid that only the ship's helicopters could deliver was crucial to the isolated survivors.

On Sumatra itself, nearly 6,000 more deaths were recorded Saturday as rescue teams sifted through the debris of the island's Aceh province which was torn apart by tsunamis.

Death toll shoots up

The confirmed death toll in Indonesia shot up to 107,039 while the overall death count, including fatalities from other devastated shores, neared 160,000.

Indonesia's toll has risen sharply in recent days as teams of rescuers recover corpses from previously inaccessible regions.

As the death toll soared, so too did the lists of missing.

Sri Lanka, with more than 30,000 known dead, added 528 names to its ranks of missing, for a total of 4,984. Indonesia, the worst hit country, estimates 10,070 missing.

In India's Andaman and Nicobar islands, 5,600 were missing and presumed dead.

Authorities held out little hope for those still missing. Officials in Sri Lanka and Thailand said thousands were unlikely to be found alive.

Sweden, Britain and France have warned they feared that nearly 1,100 of their citizens missing in the disaster were dead.

Dignitaries get in the way

Some humanitarian groups in hard-hit Aceh said the stream of foreign dignitaries flying into the tiny airport was hampering aid deliveries.

Besides UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and US Secretary of State Colin Powell, the stream of dignitaries included the foreign ministers of Japan, Britain, Canada, Germany and Norway, clogging shipments and slowing down critical deliveries.

In Sri Lanka, Annan toured a town Saturday where hundreds of shoppers at an outdoor weekly market were swept to their deaths.

Accompanied by the head of the World Bank, James A. Wolfensohn, and top UN officials, Annan inspected the battered southern and eastern coastlines which took the brunt of the tsunami's impact.

In a rare positive note, the World Health Organization said no major disease outbreaks had been reported in the crowded camps where millions had sought refuge after losing everything.

Freeze debts

"It is normal after a catastrophe of this nature to have some disease, but they are under control," WHO Director General Dr. Lee Jong-wook said in Sri Lanka.

The world's top economic powers, comprising the Group of Seven leading industrialized countries, agreed to freeze the debts of disaster-hit countries to free up money for the massive reconstruction effort.

The freeze would apply to bilateral debt between countries, rather than debt owed to institutions, although the G7 also called on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to assess the victim-nations' needs.

Where are the doctors?

Bad weather also slowed relief efforts. A heavy midafternoon rainstorm in Banda Aceh caused mountains of mud and debris collected on the roadsides to collapse into the streets; refugees ran for cover.

The catastrophe has also disrupted medical service in some areas.

At the Zainul Abidin general hospital in Banda Aceh, which was battered by the waves, up to 30 of the 100 doctors and 10 percent of the nurses were listed as missing. Virtually all the others failed to show up to work when the hospital reopened.

In other affected areas, the United Nations has begun a mammoth effort to feed up to 2 million survivors of the disaster for six months, focusing on pregnant women, nursing mothers and young children.

"Many of the places where we work are remote, detached and their infrastructure has been dramatically compromised," Morris said.

WFP workers will distribute emergency rations of staples like rice and beans, tea, vegetable oil, sugar and canned fish.

US halts deportations

In Washington, US officials said they had temporarily halted deportations of undocumented immigrants to Sri Lanka and the Maldives and might extend the benefit to migrants from other countries devastated by the tsunamis.

Noncriminal migrants from other affected countries could request a stay of deportation for consideration on a case-by-case basis, they said. *INQUIRER wires*

Rebel chief swallowed by tsunami?

COLOMBO—Elusive Tamil Tiger chief Velupillai Prabhakaran and his intelligence chief Pottu Amman are among the dead or missing after last week's tsunami disaster, state radio said Saturday, sparking fresh tension between government and rebels, who denied the report.

The Island newspaper, meanwhile, reported that an expensive coffin "for a top LTTE leader" had been smuggled into a northern Tiger area inside a container carrying relief aid for tsunami survivors.

The LTTE slammed the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corp. for spreading what the rebels said were rumors "at a time of a national catastrophe of this magnitude."

Prabhakaran directs the struggle for an independent Tamil homeland and has a reputation as a fearless and ruthless guerrilla leader. *AFP*

Alive after 11 days

JAKARTA, Indonesia—A 70-year-old Indonesian man has been found alive after surviving for 11 days under the rubble of his home that was demolished in the tsunami disaster.

Rescue workers uncovered Muhammad Zaini in a very weak condition as they ploughed through wreckage in Banda Aceh, the nearly flattened capital of Aceh province.

"The ground shook, the house's walls collapsed. It seems that I was floating as the water carried me away before a wall collapsed on me," Kompas daily newspaper quoted Zaini as saying.

"I no longer remember how I survived. I only drank water around me because I could not move my body."

Zaini, speaking from a military hospital in Banda Aceh where he was being treated for chest injuries, said he lost consciousness several times and at one point thought he had been fed by birds.

However. his survival comes with massive heartbreak as he lost his wife and six sons in the floods, Kompas said. *AFP*

Who eats fish in tsunami land?

From page A1

every day. No problem," said WHO Director General Lee Jong-wook.

Lee said the widely held perception that fish were contaminated by the human corpses washed out to sea was wrong.

"WHO advises people to eat fish," he said.

Desperate fishermen

Seafood prices plunged in Sri Lanka because of fears that fish may have fed on human bodies.

Desperate fishermen met Sri Lanka's President Chandrika Kumaratunga this week with a gift of fish. The same day, fried fish was served at a Cabinet meeting.

Fish is a staple for most Sri Lankans, and scores of seafood restaurants dot Colombo's coastline.

The tsunami that struck two-thirds of Sri Lanka's coast killed more than 30,000 people and destroyed the livelihood of many fishermen who lost their boats and nets. *AP*

Lovers no more, just 'friends'

From page A1

the pair's wedding and after months of speculation that their marriage was in trouble.

Without wedding ring

Aniston has recently been photographed in public without her diamond-studded wedding ring, according to People, although the magazine said the couple had spent the New Year's weekend together on the Caribbean island of Anguilla with Aniston's former "Friends" co-star Courteney Cox and her husband, actor David Arquette.

Pitt, 41, and Aniston, 35, have been together since being set up on a blind date in 1998. They were married in a lavish wedding on July 29, 2000, on a Malibu estate overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Some 200 people attended the event, which included four bands, a gospel choir, fireworks and tens of thousands of flowers.

1st marriage

Part of Pacific Coast Highway was shut down to accommodate the influx of guests, which included actress Cameron Diaz and most of Aniston's "Friends" co-stars. It was the first marriage for both.

Until rumors began swirling that they were about to split, there were near-constant tabloid rumors that Aniston was pregnant. The actress had told People in 2002 that she and Pitt eventually wanted to start a family.

"Absolutely it will happen but probably not for a while," she said at the time.

Since their wedding, Pitt and Anniston have been touted not only as one of Hollywood's most glamorous couples but also one of the film industry's most powerful.

They are co-owners of the Plan B production company with producer Brad Grey, who earlier this week was hired to replace Sherry Lansing as head of the Paramount studio.

'Friends' recognizable star

Aniston is perhaps the most recognizable star of "Friends," the ensemble show that concluded a 10-year run last year as one of television's highest-rated comedies. She also has starred in such films as "Along Came Polly," "Bruce Almighty" and "The Good Girl." Her father is veteran soap opera actor John Aniston.

Pitt, long one of Hollywood' most bankable film stars, is currently seen in "Ocean's Twelve." Other film credits include "Ocean's Eleven," "Fight Club," "Meet Joe Black," "Seven Years in Tibet," "Sleepers," "12 Monkeys," "Legends of the Fall," "A River Runs Through It" and "Thelma & Louise."

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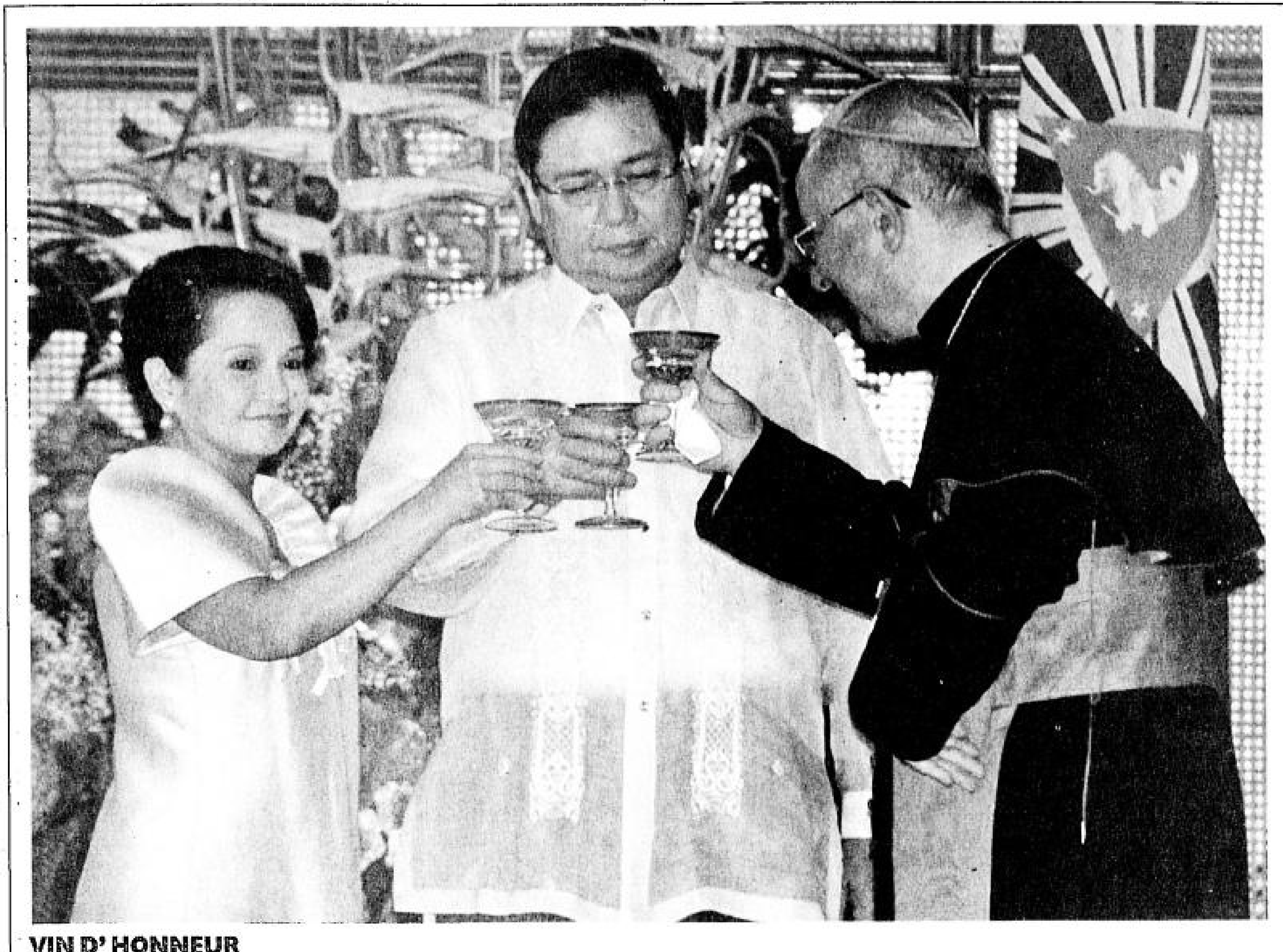

VIN D' HONNEUR

The first couple toasts the New Year with the dean of the diplomatic corps, the Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco, during the annual Vin D'Honneur at the Palace on Friday, which was attended by the diplomatic corps and government officials. PHOTOS BY REM ZAMORA

THE COUNTRY'S top two officials, President Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro, greet each other at the reception.

Millionaire . . .

From page A1

this storm-battered town.

And all at no cost to the government, according to Quezon provincial engineer Cesario Palayan.

The owner of the construction firm, who wished to remain anonymous, was the first to respond to appeals for assistance in clearing the road of thick mud, boulders and flood debris, to pave the way for relief and rescue operations in the devastated areas.

Isidro Pahutan, a former engineer at the Department of Public Works and Highways, described the owner as a civic-minded and religious man quick to make donations to charity and to build churches in Manila and elsewhere.

Pahutan said the man did not think twice about dispatching a crew and heavy equipment, including bulldozers, payloaders and graders, to the town.

Free labor, machines

Both men and machines are still camped in the area, and will stay there until the work is deemed completed.

The town of Real was among the areas devastated by the landslides and flash floods triggered by the series of tropical cyclones in November and December. Apart from the casualty count of about 2,000 killed and missing, the damage took a horrific toll on houses, farms, fishponds and highways and assorted infrastructure.

Palayan confirmed to the INQUIRER in a phone interview that the man was indeed responsible for clearing the road in eroded areas in cooperation with the DPWH, the Quezon Provincial Engineer's Office and other private construction companies.

He said the delicate task of clearing the steep highway of mud using the man's own heavy equipment and skilled personnel was being done for free.

Asked why he was doing this, the Good Samaritan told the INQUIRER that it was just his way of sharing God's blessings.

Dangerous job

Palayan said that while the road had been sufficiently cleared to allow vehicles to pass through Real and Infanta on to Lucena, Laguna, Rizal and Manila and vice versa, the final clearing work was far from over.

He said that because of the steep terrain of the eroded Real highway, the dangerous job was being done gradually to avoid accidents.

"The workers cannot afford to commit a mistake in the clearing process because it can kill them or other people, or cause the equipment to fall into the ravine," he said.

Palayan also reminded residents along the eroded areas of the Real highway to be very careful. He warned that more rains could result in more landslides.

Pinoys less gloomy in '05

From page A1

had a margin of error of 3 percent.

Ibon said the survey aimed to capture the "people's pulse" concerning the economy, family income and livelihood, government performance and other pressing issues.

Tujan noted that the shift in outlook between the October and December surveys was slight.

2 key issues

"That's why we don't say Filipinos have become more hopeful. What we are saying is that Filipinos, from our survey, just showed [themselves] to be less pessimistic. Is it because of Christmas? Is it because Filipinos want to be or try to be not too gloomy? Maybe," he said.

According to Tujan, two key issues dragged down the President's approval rating—the soaring prices of commodities and oil and the nagging issue of corruption.

"I think in the past month, there has been a big issue about price increases, and I think there is a perception that she is not able to address this issue," Tujan said.

"There is a perception that she [Ms Arroyo] is not doing enough in terms of [keeping down] prices, and ... that she is allowing people to enrich themselves in public service," he said.

Ratings plunge

Ms Arroyo's approval rating plunged in Southern Mindanao and Central Mindanao where respondents gave the President a 100 percent unsatisfactory rating.

The Caraga region gave the President's performance a 97.22 percent unsatisfactory rating, while Bicol's unsatisfactory rating was 90.16 percent.

Ms Arroyo's satisfactory rating was highest in Central Luzon at 14.67 percent and Central Visayas at 9.26 percent.

Tujan said the survey proponents were surprised at how people could judge the President as having performed poorly while pronouncing themselves less pessimistic about their economic prospects this year.

"In fact, many times in the past, the mood we got is that it would worsen," he said.

Tujan said people had not yet connected the President's performance to the state of the economy, unlike during the impeachment and ouster of ex-President Joseph Estrada when people saw him as part of the country's problems.

Political opposition

It might also mean that the political opposition was not doing its job of fiscalizing and directing the attention of the President to the country's problems, he said.

"What this means is that in the minds of the people, the level of politicization of the economy, and the level of polarization of views in relation to the President and the state of the country is not that intense yet," he said.

"It leaves her [the President] room to institute decisive reforms," Tujan said.

Some 54.23 percent of those surveyed said their livelihood had worsened, compared to 53.18 percent that said so in October.

And 64.2 percent said their family income was not enough to meet basic needs, a slight decrease from October's 66.29 percent.

But the number of respondents who said their family income was enough increased slightly to 13.2 percent compared with 30.41 percent in October.

Job opportunities

The survey also noted a drop in the number of people who said jobs were unavailable in their areas to 23.91 percent, from 35.81 percent in October.

Majority of those surveyed, or 64.43 percent, said livelihood opportunities were available in the areas but that these were not enough.

Ibon asked respondents to grade Ms Arroyo's performance as the country's chief executive. Under the grading system, 95 percent was the highest possible grade; 75, passing, and 65, the lowest.

The result was almost split evenly, with 43.95 percent giving her a grade of 65 to 74, and 42.04 percent giving her a grade of 75 to 95. Some 14 percent of respondents did not answer this query.

GMA's mean grade

Tujan noted that the President got a mean grade of 51.65 among those who gave her a failing grade, and 77.76 among those who gave her a passing grade.

"It means those who failed her gave her really low grades, and those who passed her, *pinasang-awa siya* [gave her a barely passing grade]," Tujan said.

He said the next two months of January and February would be crucial. These are the months when Ms Arroyo must institute needed reforms, he said.

She must address the question of welfare and corruption issues like that of former Armed Forces comptroller Gen. Carlos Garcia, who is charged with accumulating P143 million in unexplained wealth.

The other results of the survey included:

- Charter Change was still highly unpopular with 57.43 percent saying they did not want to amend the Constitution. Some 15 percent said they were in favor of amending it while 27 percent said they did not know.
- Some 93 percent of respondents said the power rate increase of the National Power Corp. was unreasonable.
- Similarly, 83 percent said Maynilad and Manila Water's rate increases were unreasonable.
- Most Filipinos wanted a total log ban, with 80 percent in favor of such a measure.
- Majority, or 74 percent, were against a proposal to increase the percentage and expand the coverage of the value-added tax.
- More Filipinos, some 51 percent, supported either a price control mechanism or a price ceiling system on prime commodities and the regulation of the oil industry.

PNP links Islamic converts' group to Jemaah Islamiya

From page A1

Pedro Gil Street.

The complaints were filed before the Manila Prosecutor's Office against Afgani Alonto, Ahmad Ricalde, Yusof Anor, Alih Nadia Hasshim and Mamar Adam Magilay.

The rest were released at around 1 a.m. yesterday for "humanitarian" considerations, given that three of them were women, Mendoza said.

Sr. Insp. Jesus Kabigting, chief of the PNP-CIDG General Investigation Branch, said prosecutor Eliza Faith Noro had ordered the detention of the five suspects.

Mendoza said in a phone interview that the complaint against the five was "based on the evidence" recovered during the Friday raid.

"The [16] were brought to the Western Police District headquarters to determine who owns the contraband," he said. "And they were released within the prescribed time in which we can hold them before any charges can or should be filed against them."

'Religious violence'

But Nash Pangadapun, secretary general of the Muslim civil society group Maradeka, said the PNP was "fomenting religious violence" with the arrest of the 16.

"Muslims have never disturbed the Black Nazarene festival in Quiapo. We only watch [the procession] and focus on our business," Pangadapun told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

The Quiapo Golden Mosque is less than a kilometer away from the Quiapo Church.

Pangadapun said Muslims would gain nothing by sowing violence during the procession, in which hundreds of thousands of male devotees take part.

He assailed the PNP-CIDG for arresting people and presenting them as "terrorists" even without evidence.

"If they were really terrorists, how come [the PNP] did not even get their names right?" he said.

According to Pangadapun, one of those arrested, Dr. Arab Aguam (earlier named as Dr. Arab Caliacuam), is the former administrator of the Quiapo Golden Mosque who used to lead Muslim prayer rallies for President Macapagal-Arroyo,

Aguam is employed at the Office of Muslim Affairs, Pangadapun said, adding:

"He is a dogmatic loyalist of the President. He disliked Muslim activists and he never allowed us to hold rallies outside the Quiapo mosque."

Senator's son

Pangadapun also said Afgani Alonto was the nephew of Makdi Alonto, a former Philippine ambassador to Libya.

Sara Alonto, a sister of Afgani's, told radio dzMM that her brother was a director of the Islamic Information Center and only wanted to preach the message of Islam.

She said that her brother was not a terrorist and that their father was Ahmad Domocao Alonto, a senator from 1955 to 1961.

Sara also said the raid was conducted without a warrant. But Manila police earlier showed reporters a copy of the search warrant issued by Manila Executive Judge Enrico Lanzanas.

The warrant named Sheik Reuben Omar Lavilla and Ahmad Barcelon as respondents.

Popular radio announcer

Pangadapun said Ahmad Recalde, also among those arrested, was actually a popular Muslim radio announcer who used to challenge the "jihadist" statements of Ahmed Santos.

Santos is a Muslim convert and an alleged leader of the HKT/RSM.

"How can Recalde be a terrorist when he had been opposing the supposed terrorist groups?" Pangadapun said.

A PNP-CIDG report said Santos trained in demolition and basic warfare at an MILF camp in Lanao del Sur in December 2001.

It said Santos and his batch mates were sent on a "bombing attack mission" in Manila during the Labor Day celebration in 2002, supposedly under the supervision of one Abu Saad, who turned out to be the Indonesian Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi.

Al-Ghozi was a senior JI bomb expert who was arrested, escaped, and was later killed at a checkpoint in Mindanao in 2003.

The report said Santos was also a "contact person" of Muklis Yunos, Al-Ghozi's partner in carrying out the bombing of the Light Railway Transit on Dec. 30, 2000.

It said Santos set up camp for the RSM in a family-owned 18-ha farm in Anda, Pangasinan in 2001 initially with 41 trainees, including Khalid Trinidad, a Muslim convert who was killed in a clash with police on May 1, 2003, in Tarlac City.

Subsequent training sessions supposedly included Redento Cain Dellosa, the suspect in the May 2004 bombing of the SuperFerry 14, and Allan Borlagdatan, who killed a cop in Camp Crame before he was gunned down by other policemen during a freak shootout on Dec. 27.

Lantern in a box

Supt. Romulo Sapitula, chief of the Sta. Cruz police, said he had instructed the Quiapo police to be vigilant during today's feast of the Black Nazarene.

Around 1,200 policemen, volunteers and barangay guards will secure the route of the procession.

As if to heighten the vigilant mood, a box left outside the Quiapo Church yesterday morning sent explosives experts scrambling to check it out.

But the box was found to contain only a lantern.

Safety conscious

Sapitula said a churchgoer's discovery and report of the box indicated that the people were conscious of their safety and the things that they should be looking out for. *With a report from Alcuin Papa*

Palace commends PNP for terror roundup

MALACAÑANG yesterday commended the Philippine National Police for foiling an alleged terrorist plot to disrupt today's feast of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo.

"The PNP preemptive operation affirms the vigilance and readiness of our law enforcement agencies around the clock," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

"The police are to be highly commended for this accomplishment," he said.

Malacañang, however, made no mention of the alleged plot to detonate a bomb during the Black Nazarene procession.

Bunye said the government's campaign against terrorists would be unrelenting "until they are brought to justice and our society is secure.

"Terrorists will be surveilled and tracked down wherever they are, and they will not be allowed a minute of rest or the space to hide," he said. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Aid workers laud UK's 'Marshall' plan for Africa

JOHANNESBURG—Britain's proposed "Marshall" plan for Africa could herald change in the poorest continent by harnessing compassion sparked by the Asian tsunami, but the rhetoric must be matched by action, experts say.

Aid workers and economists on Friday applauded a three-pronged plan unveiled by Britain's finance minister Gordon Brown to cancel third-world debt, dismantle trade barriers and double annual aid to $100 billion for the poorest nations.

"We welcome this as a serious attempt to harness all this death and horror on our TV screens and focus the attention on poverty," said David Sanderson, regional head of Care International UK. "It could be a moment of change for Africa."

But experts also said the plan could end up as another round of empty rhetoric that will fail to address soaring poverty levels, the spread of HIV/AIDS and scant economic growth.

"We've heard this year after year," said Nigel Marsh, World Vision Africa communications manager.

"These must not remain empty statements or Africa will be in the same dire situation in 100 years."

Some aid agencies are worried the aftermath of the Asian tsunami disaster, which has drawn billions in aid from governments, companies and individuals, will eclipse Africa's daily struggle with war, famine and disease.

"We are concerned that the switch of international attention and resources to the terrible tsunami disaster would mean that crises like those in Darfur, northern Uganda and Congo drop out of the international spotlight," said an Oxfam spokesperson in Nairobi.

Sanderson noted that 191,000 sub-Saharan Africans died each month last year from AIDS-related illnesses, according to the United Nations. The tsunami death toll hit 153,000 on Friday.

But Brown said the tsunami was a chance to galvanize a "passion for compassion" and to launch a plan for Africa on the same scale as the US Secretary of State George Marshall's initiative to rebuild Europe after World War Two.

Both Brown, who is due to visit southern Africa next week, and Prime Minister Tony Blair aim to put development high on the agenda as Britain holds the presidency of the G8 group of rich countries this year. Blair said Africa suffers "the equivalent of a man-made, preventable tsunami every week."

Jan Duvenage, economist at Standard Bank in Johannesburg, said a concerted international effort like this was essential for the only continent where poverty is still on the rise.

And he said the Marshall plan may signal a shift in attitudes as Britain and other rich countries start to realize that in a globalized world, Africa is everyone's problem.

"A lot of people are cynical but I want to believe it is sincere," he said. "What political capital do they get? Africa is not going to win them votes... I think that having individuals like Blair and Brown championing this could make things happen."

While experts cheered plans to smash trade barriers, which stop African countries from exporting their goods to the West and selling them on a level playing field, they raised some doubt over how far aid and even debt forgiveness would help.

Reuters

MRS. ROSE Kennedy (center) is shown with three of her children, from left, Joseph Jr., Rosemary, and John, in this undated family portrait. Rosemary Kennedy, born mentally retarded and who lived most of her life in an institution after undergoing a lobotomy, died Jan. 7, 2005, her family said. She was 86.

AP

Rosemary Kennedy, sister of JFK, 86

WASHINGTON—While Rosemary Kennedy spent much of her life shielded from the public eye, her struggles with mental retardation inspired her sister to encourage millions of mentally disabled athletes to publicly celebrate their differences.

Kennedy, the oldest sister of President John F. Kennedy and the inspiration for the Special Olympics, died Friday. She was 86.

Kennedy, the third child of Rose and Joseph Kennedy, was born mentally retarded and underwent a lobotomy when she was 23. She lived most of her life in a Jefferson, Wisconsin, institution, the St. Coletta School for Exceptional Children.

She died at Fort Atkinson Memorial Health Hospital in Wisconsin with her brother Sen. Edward M. Kennedy and her sisters by her side, the family said in a statement.

"Rosemary was a lifelong jewel to every member of our family," the statement said. "From her earliest years, her mental retardation was a continuing inspiration to each of us and a powerful source of our family's commitment to do all we can to help all persons with disabilities live full and productive lives."

Rosemary Kennedy's condition became an inspiration to her younger sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who founded the Special Olympics for mentally disabled athletes, and in 1984 she took over her sister's care after their mother had a stroke.

Rosemary's retardation became public in 1960, just after her brother John was elected president. The National Association for Retarded Children mentioned in a publication that the president-elect "has a mentally retarded sister who is in an institution in Wisconsin."

The following year, Eunice revealed more about her sister's story in an article for The Saturday Evening Post.

Born Rose Marie Kennedy on Sept. 13, 1918, in Boston, she was known as Rosemary or Rosie to friends and family. In her own diaries before the lobotomy, she chronicled a life of tea dances, dress fittings, trips to Europe and a visit to the Roosevelt White House.

But as she got older, her father worried his daughter's mild condition would lead her into situations that could damage the family's reputation.

"Rosemary was a woman, and there was a dread fear of pregnancy, disease and disgrace," author Laurence Leamer wrote in an unauthorized Kennedy biography called "The Kennedy Women: The Saga of an American Family."

Doctors told Joseph Kennedy that a lobotomy, a medical procedure in which the frontal lobes of a patient's brain are scraped away, would help his daughter and calm her mood swings that the family found difficult to handle at home.

Rosemary lived in several private institutions before her father placed her in St. Coletta, an hour west of Milwaukee.

During the 1980s, Eunice involved Rosemary more in the lives of her siblings and their children. She attended family gatherings more frequently.

AP

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Pentagon orders review of US strategy in Iraq

BAGHDAD—The Pentagon has ordered a top-level review of its strategy and of Iraqi troops after nine US troops were killed, just three weeks from election day.

US President George W. Bush sought to encourage high voter turnout despite the mounting insurgent carnage in the country.

"We're having elections on Jan. 30. It is a historical moment," Bush told reporters at the White House.

"I know it's hard for a reason, and the reason is that there is a handful of folks that fear freedom," he said.

Bush described 14 of Iraq's 18 provinces as "relatively calm" and added that in some "the terrorists are trying to stop people from voting."

The second-in-command of US forces in Iraq, Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, told reporters Thursday security was lacking in four provinces in central Iraq's Sunni Muslim belt, but said postponing the elections would be a mistake.

According to an internal state department poll, only 32 percent of Sunnis are "very likely" to vote and 88 percent said they would stay away from the polls if they feared attacks.

A US official said the findings were "not surprising," but said efforts would encourage the participation of Sunnis, who enjoyed power until US troops toppled Saddam Hussein's regime in 2003.

Amid increasing unrest, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is sending a retired general to Iraq to evaluate the development of Iraqi security forces, a centerpiece of the US strategy to defeat the growing insurgency, the Pentagon said Friday.

The mission, first reported by The New York Times, reflected deepening concern over the situation in Iraq, as rebels intensify their campaign to derail Jan. 30 elections.

The Times said retired Gen. Gary Luck's review will be "open ended" and include a broader look at US military operations, including US troop levels and the strategy for fighting the insurgency.

However, Pentagon spokesperson Lawrence DiRita said Luck would assess US efforts to train and field Iraqi security forces, whose halting performance has compared unfavorably with an Iraqi insurgency that appears to be growing in strength and sophistication.

A Pentagon official said rebels have been packing more explosives into roadside bombs such as one that killed seven US soldiers on Thursday.

"We've noticed in the recent couple of weeks that the IEDs are being built more powerfully, with a more explosive effort in a smaller number of IEDs," the military initials for improvised explosive device, said Brig. Gen. David Rodriguez.

The Bradley is second only to the M1 Abrams battle tank in armored protection, yet a roadside bomb in Baghdad killed all seven US soldiers aboard.

In addition, two marines died in the volatile western province of al-Anbar on Thursday.

It was the largest number of US troops killed in a single attack since last month's suicide bombing in a military mess hall at a Mosul base that killed 22 people, including 14 US service members. *AFP*

US sergeant acquitted in death of Iraqi civilian

FORT HOOD, Texas—Jurors at a court martial at a Texas military base Friday acquitted an army sergeant of manslaughter charges in the drowning death of an Iraqi civilian but convicted him of assaulting the man.

Sergeant First Class Tracy Perkins was accused of forcing Zidoun Fadel Hassoun to jump in the Tigris river in Baghdad as punishment for violating a curfew in Samarra in January 2004.

But the defense argued it wasn't clear that the Iraqi civilian had died in the incident.

Army criminal investigators questioned during the four-day trial at the Fort Hood base admitted they lacked the resources to fully probe the alleged death.

The defense also argued that the nature of hostilities in Iraq meant US troops needed to find effective ways to deter crime.

The six-man military jury cleared Perkins of manslaughter charges but convicted him of assault, which carries a maximum prison sentence of six months.

Also Friday, a soldier seen as the ringleader of detainee abuses at the Abu Ghraib prison appeared before a military judge at Fort Hood, as his court martial started with the selection of a 10-man jury.

Specialist Charles Graner is seen on several of the photographs soldiers took of themselves standing by naked Iraqi prisoners. He pleaded not guilty to the charges of mistreatment of prisoners, which carry a maximum prison sentence of 17 and a half years.

Three former Iraqi detainees are to testify by videotape at the trial. Also on the witness list is Specialist Joseph Darby, who blew the whistle on the scandal that stirred worldwide outrage.

Civilian lawyer Guy Womack said the defense would be based on the argument that Graner was "following orders."

He argued the prison guards had been encouraged to "soften up" prisoners ahead of interrogation, and insisted those who gave the orders are the ones who should be on trial, and not the low-ranking soldiers who have been charged in the Abu Ghraib scandal.

Womack said he expected officers "to lie about it," and said a number of others "are invoking their right to remain silent." *AFP*

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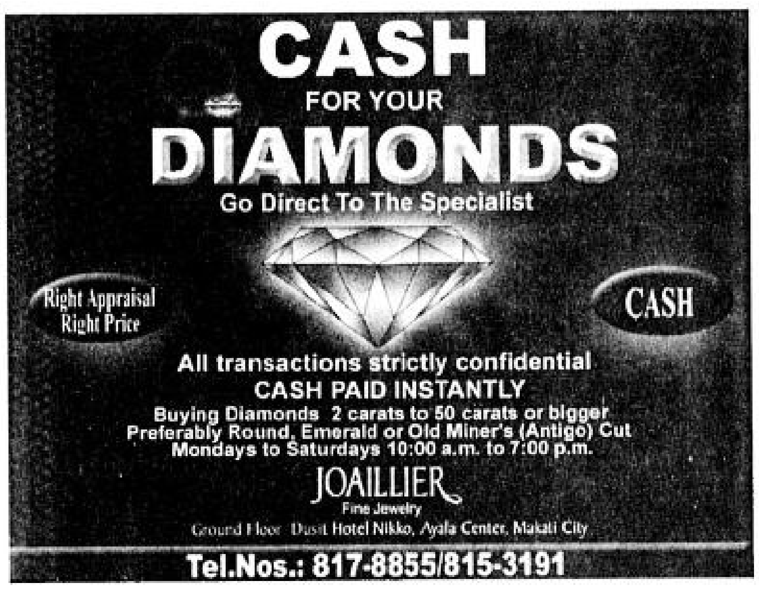
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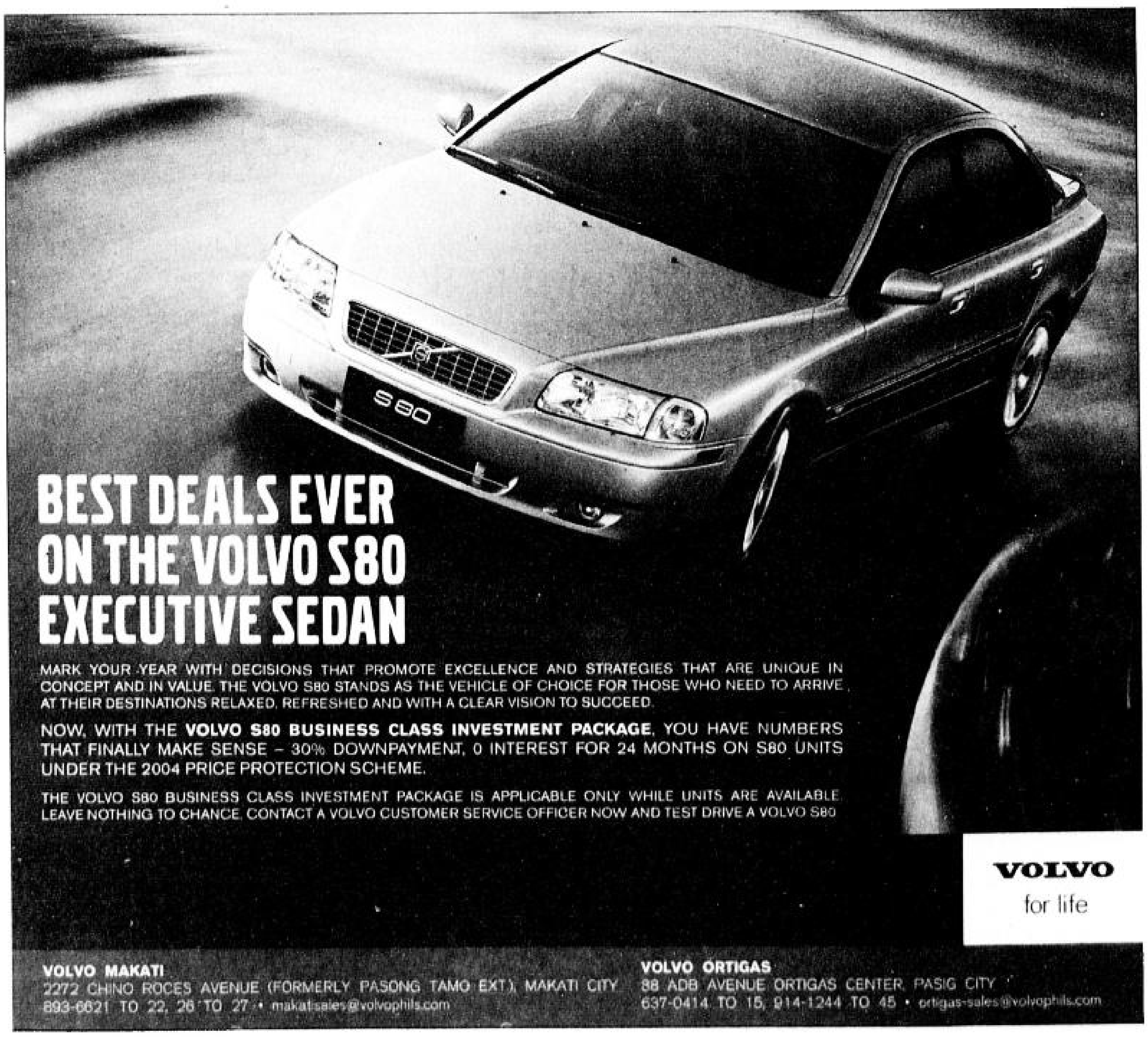
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IRA linked to $50-M bank heist

BELFAST—Northern Ireland's police chief blamed the IRA on Friday for a massive bank raid in Belfast, an accusation that undermines efforts to hand back running of the British province to its divided Catholics and Protestants.

Britain and Ireland said the linking of the Irish Republican Army to the 26.5 million pound ($50 million) heist at the headquarters of Northern Bank in central Belfast last month was a major setback to their efforts to seal a final political settlement in the British-ruled province.

"On the basis of the investigative work we've done to date... in my opinion the Provisional IRA are responsible for this crime," Chief Constable Hugh Orde told a news briefing. He declined to give details of the intelligence this was based on.

The IRA and its political ally Sinn Fein, the largest Catholic party, denied the guerrilla group was behind the raid, in which the families of two bank workers were held hostage.

Sinn Fein has often accused the mainly Protestant Northern Ireland police of bias against Catholics, and said Orde's accusations were a politically motivated attempt to demonize the party.

"Hugh Orde's comments today are nothing more than... politically biased allegations," said Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator. "He has not produced one scrap of evidence. Within days of the robbery... I asked the IRA about this and was assured that they were not involved."

Protestant unionists, who support ties to Britain, seized on Orde's comments as evidence the IRA remained involved in crime and low-level violence despite the ceasefire it called in 1997 in its campaign against British rule. They called for Sinn Fein to be excluded from the political mainstream.

"When we were engaged in the talks process, the (British) government informed us that Sinn Fein/IRA wanted to move toward ending its paramilitary and criminal activity," said hardliner Ian Paisley, leader of the largest Protestant party. "This is clearly not the case."

Mark Durkan, leader of the moderate SDLP, Sinn Fein's main competitor for Catholic votes, said a "real blow" had been dealt to the peace process.

"The SDLP cannot see who else but the IRA would have the capacity to carry out such a huge and organized robbery," he said. "IRA sources may have denied involvement, but so many of their denials have turned out to be false in the past."

Attempts by London and Dublin to broker a deal to revive a power-sharing government at the heart of a 1998 peace deal stalled last month. Agreement faltered over the issue of photographs of the IRA putting its weapons out of use.

Paisley's party, the Democratic Unionists (DUP), insisted this was essential. The IRA would not agree to a request it said was simply designed to humiliate republicans.

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern called Orde's remarks deeply worrying. "The attribution of the... robbery to the Provisional IRA represents a serious set-back for the political process in Northern Ireland and is corrosive of the public confidence that we have been seeking to create," he said.

A spokesperson for Tony Blair said the British prime minister took the latest developments very seriously.

"He has made it repeatedly clear over the past two years that the political institutions in Northern Ireland can only be restored if there is a complete end to paramilitary activity by those involved, and that included all criminal activity."

Northern Bank announced on Friday it would withdraw all its paper banknotes in circulation and replace them with new ones in different colors, at a cost of up to 5 million pounds, which would render more than half the stolen cash worthless. *Reuters*

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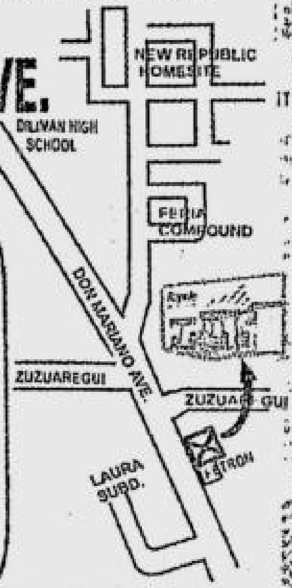

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Trains collide in Italy; 18 killed

ROME—Eighteen people were killed and dozens injured Friday when a passenger train collided with a goods train in thick fog in northern Italy, rescuers said, in the country's worst rail accident in 25 years.

Two hundred firefighters, including a helicopter and dozens of ambulances were rushed to the wreckage scene near Bologna after the collision on a single-track section of line, close to the Bolognina di Crevalcore station.

"Some of the carriages were derailed by the impact," a spokesperson for rail operating company Italfer said.

The Sky24 television news channel quoted firefighters from the nearby town of Modena from where back-up was sent as saying the death toll had gone up to 18—officially confirmed is a death toll of 14.

A fireman earlier told the channel that the dead included the two drivers of each train.

"There are 14 dead for sure and very probably four other people who died according to what firefighters and health authorities at the scene are telling us," Raffaele Ricciardi, spokesperson for the Bologna local authority said.

He said there were "four or five seriously injured and more than 50 slightly injured." He said the nationality of the victims had not yet been established.

Rescuers was hampered by the fog, which had reduced visibility to some 50 meters, and were struggling to cut people free from one of the wagons of the passenger train. *AFP*

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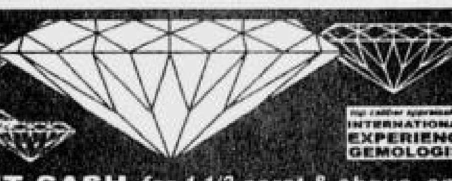
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MDCH 0503	Eastern Europe & Slovenia	Apr-30
MDCH 0504	Holyland w/ Ext to Egypt & Turkey	Feb 25 /March 14 /Apr 01, 22 /May 06
MDCH 0505	Russia & Scandinavia	Mar-20
MDCH 0506	Australia	Mar 19 /Apr 9 & 23/May 14 & 28
MDCH 0507	New Zealand "Lord of the Rings"	Mar 28 /Apr 17 /May 01 & 22 /Jun 5
MDCH 0508	Japan (Tokyo, Osaka & Nagoya)	Mar 19 / Apr 2, 16,30/ May 14 & 21
MDCH 0509	Best of the West	Mar 19, Apr 2, 16,30 May14, 28
MDCH 0510	East Coast Ext 1 (Boston, New York, Was)	Mar 29, Apr 12, 26, May 10, 24
MDCH 0511	East Coast Ext 2 (Orlando)	May 29, Apr 12, 26, May 10,24
MDCH 0512	Canada Basic - Vancouver & Victoria 4D3N	Mar 29, Apr 12, 26, May 10, 24
MDCH 0513	Canada Eastern- Toronto to Quebec City 7D6N	Apr 1, 15, 29, May 13,27
MDCH 0514	Canadian Rockies - Calgary & Banff 4D3N	Apr 1, 15, 29, May 13,27
MDCH 0515	Korea 6D5N.	Mar 20 /Apr 3 /May 01
CRUISE PACKAGES		**SAILING DATES**
MDCR 0501	7N Alaska Radiance of the Seas	May 21, 28
MDCR 0502	7N Alaska Princess (Coral/Island/Dawn/Sun)	May 7,14,16,28,23,30
MDCR 0503	7N Alaska Princess (Diamond/Sapphire)	May 7,14,15,21,22,29
MDCR 0504	7N Mexican Riviera (Vision of the Seas)	Feb-13
MDCR 0505	11N Eastern Mediterranean (Galaxy)	May-23
MDCR 0506	12N Scandinavia & Russia (Jewel of the Seas)	May-15
MDCR 0507	12N Greek Isles/Mediterranean(Grand Princess)	May 2, Jun 7,Jul 25, Sep 11, oct 29
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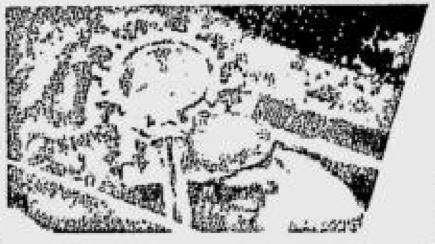
Manila Water

Water interruption notice
Portion of Quezon City and San Juan

Three cut and plug activities will cause a temporary water service interruptions in portions of Quezon City and San Juan. The first two activities will occur in Quezon City and cause a temporary water service interruption in Bgys. Mariana, Immaculate Concepcion, Kaunlaran, Mapayapa, Commonwealth, Luzon Ave., Sitio Sunog Baga, Veteran's Village, Pingkian 3, Doña Petrona, Feria, Villa Beatriz, Laura, Capitol Homes, Capitol Park, Bonifacio Village, Wilton Hts., portions of Miranilla (upper portion), Centerville and Philand from 10:00 p.m., Monday, January 10, 2005, up to 5:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 11.

Meanwhile, the third activity will affect portions of San Juan. Temporary water service interruption will start 10:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 12, 2005, up to 4:00 a.m., Thursday, January 13 and will affect Balong-Bato, Salapan, Ermitano, part of Pedro Cruz and Rivera.

These activities are part of Manila Water's aggressive water improvement program to reduce non-revenue water and distribute more water to more areas.

Residents are advised to store enough water prior to the schedule of the water interruptions.

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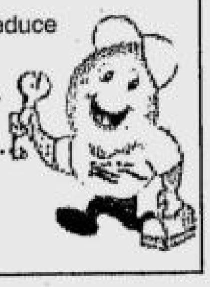
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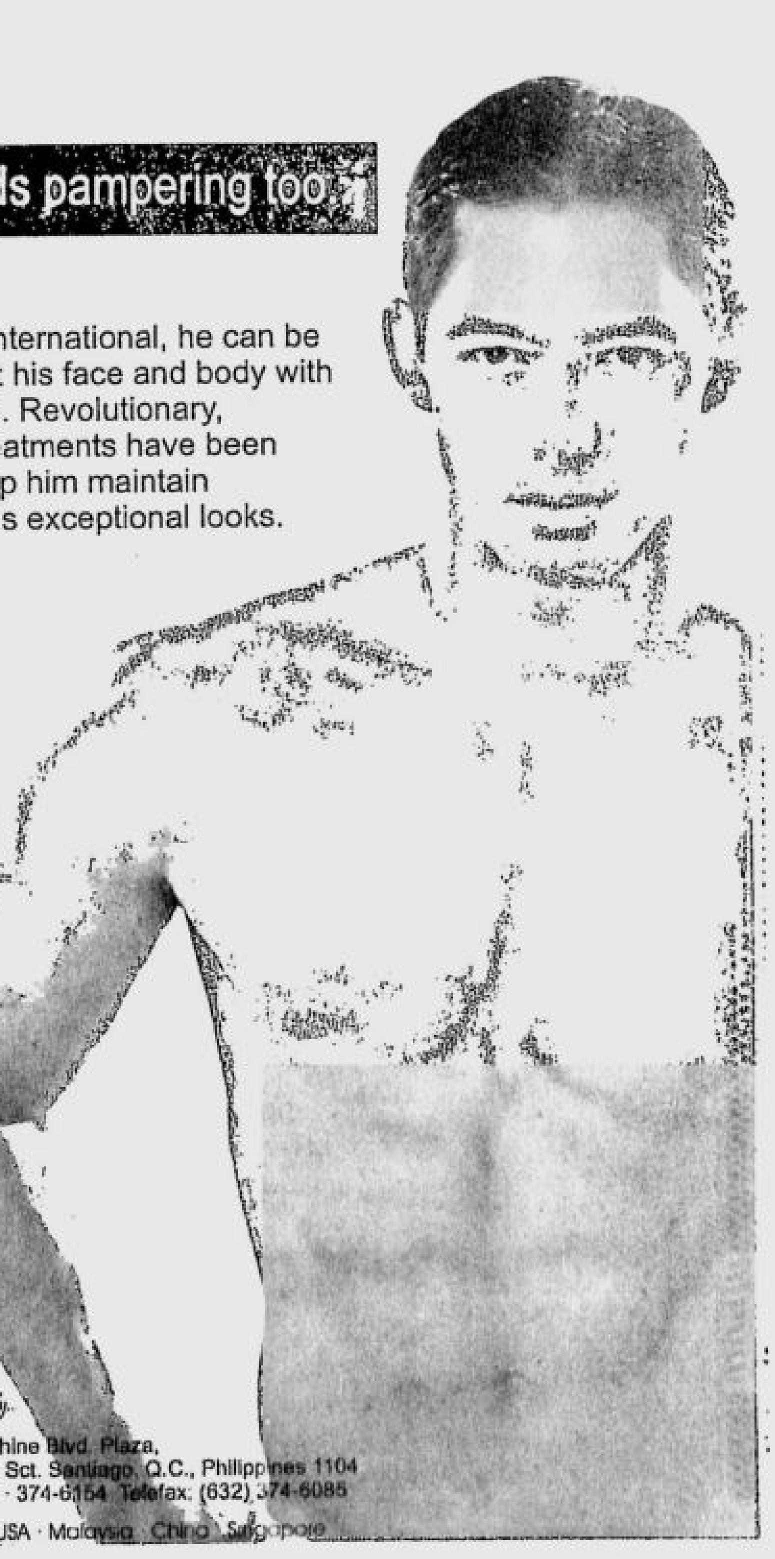
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FESTIVAL Highlights

Date	Activity	Venue
	ATI-ATIHAN	
Jan.6-16	Ati-Atihan Snake Dancing	Magsaysay Park
Jan 10-15	Sad-Sad 2005	Mezzanine Café Bar & Restaurant
Jan.10-16	Foodfest 2005 Kaean-an sa Plaza	Pastrana Park
Jan.14-16	Big 3 Days of Spiritual Dancing	Parade Route
Jan.15	Fireworks Display	Magsaysay Park
	SINULOG	
Jan.15	Fluvial Parade Re-enactment of Baptism Solemn Procession Sinulog Festival Queen	Mandaue-Lapu-Lapu Basilica Cebu Roads Fuente Osmeña
Jan.16	Grand Mardi Gras Parade Street Party & Fireworks Contingent Exhibit & Cultural Show	Cebu City Fuente Osmeña Plaza Independencia
Jan.17	Sinulog Awarding Ceremony	Sports Complex
	DINAGYANG	
Jan. 20	Ms. Dinagyang 2005 Pageant	SM City, Iloilo
Jan.20-23	Iloilo Hotel Resort & Restaurants Associations (IHRRA) Food Festival	Delgado St., Iloilo
Jan.22	Kasadyahan Parade Competition	Freedom Grandstand
Jan.23	Ati-Atihan Parade Competition	Freedom Grandstand

Festival Bar Tie-Ups

Date	Venue	Buddy Freebie
	ATI-ATIHAN	
Jan. 10-15	Mezzanine Bar	FREE beer for every SIM swap
	SINULOG	
Jan. 13-15	Brix Sports Cafe (feat. DJ Kimosave, DJ Centralle, DJ Cokle)	FREE entrance for the first 50 who SIM swap to SMART Buddy
Jan. 15-16	Ratsky (feat. Rage Band, True Faith)	FREE entrance for the first 50 who SIM swap to SMART Buddy
	DINAGYANG	
Jan. 19-23	Tijuana Bar (feat. local bands and other artists)	FREE drink for the first 25 SMART subscribers and those who SIM swap to SMART Buddy
Jan. 21-23	Barrack's Bar	FREE entrance for all SMART subscribers
	012 Bar and Restaurant (feat. local bands and other artists)	Free drink for all SMART subscribers and those who SIM swap to SMART Buddy from Jan. 21-22, 8pm to 11pm. FREE entrance for all SMART subscribers and those who SIM swap to SMART Buddy on Jan. 23

FiestAm

Date	Activit
	ATI-A
Jan. 6-16	FiestAmazing Magsaysay Park
Jan.10-16	FiestAmazing Pastrana Park
	SIN
Jan. 14-15	FiestAmazing Fuente Circle
Jan. 14-16	Bang The Rh feat. Sandw Dub & other Mango Squar
Jan. 15	FiestAmazi feat. Bamb SM City Park
	DI
Jan. 20	RNB Night Sarabia Ma
Jan. 21	Comedy N Sarabia Ma
Jan. 22	FiestAma feat. Bam Sarabia M

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Blitz	SIM Swap for FREE, get a Buddy Gift and henna tattoo or Buddy Gift and face painting for FREE
Blitz	
ULOG	
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NAGYANG	
nor Hotel Car Park	FREE Buddy Gift for those who SIM swap to SMART Buddy
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OPINION

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The summit

EDITORIAL

AT FIRST, the very idea of a one-day post-tsunami summit seemed extravagant: a gathering of politicians when politics seemed irrelevant. But the event, a concept that came naturally to the diplomats of the Association of Southeast Nations, turned out to be necessary after all.

To be sure, the most pressing work of the next few weeks remains the coordination of relief efforts, and the international conference, held in Jakarta last Thursday, was anything but a coordinators' meeting. As a skeptical European ambassador in the region commented: "We don't need a donors' conference; we need a logistics conference."

To date, more than $4 billion has been pledged to the relief campaign; turning pledges into cash or goods, then distributing them to the 5 million people estimated to have been displaced by the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami, requires an enormous amount of coordination.

And two weeks after the cataclysm, relief operations have stumbled on a new but not unexpected problem: anti-government rebels in Sri Lanka and in Aceh have become active again. The situation in Aceh, the westernmost part of the sprawling Indonesian archipelago, is complicated even more by the presence of relief teams sent by supporters of Abu Bakr Bashir, the jailed Muslim cleric said to be the spiritual leader of the radical Jemaah Islamiyah movement.

But the summit was needed just the same. Organized by the Asean with remarkable speed, the conference helped reassure the governments of the affected countries that help was not only on the way; it would continue in the short term. The Jakarta conference also presented UN Secretary General Kofi Annan with the right forum to make the hardest of sales pitches: an unsubtle reminder to the donors to redeem their pledges, at least the first billion dollars, immediately. And during the summit itself, additional pledges were received.

In all likelihood, the summit will be remembered most for its decision to set up an early warning system for tsunamis in the Indian Ocean, similar to the network already in place in the Pacific Ocean.

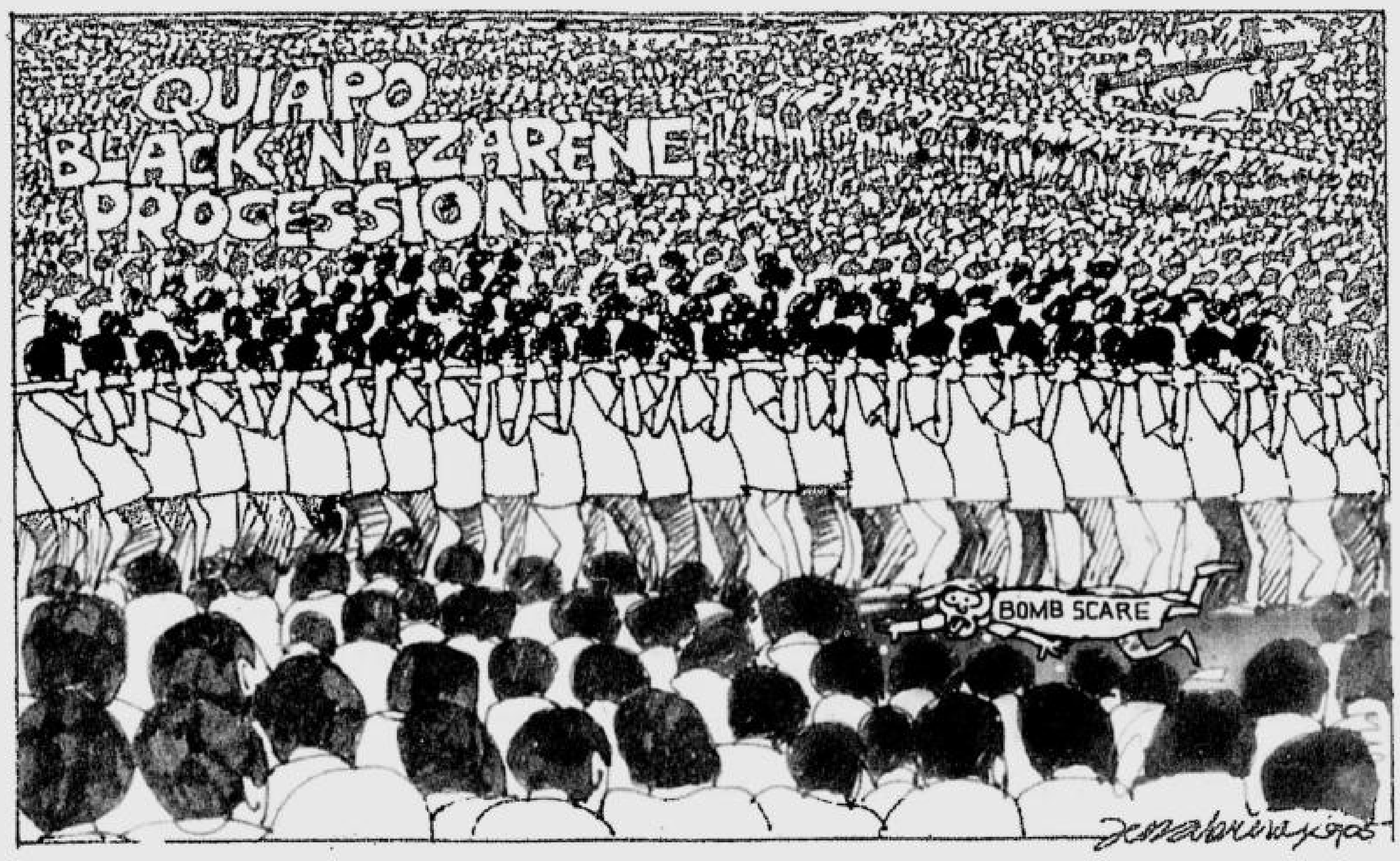
Thailand proposed that some of the relief money be used to install the system; the earlier it is set up, the better for the tourism industries in the area, which attract millions of visitors a year. But it is likely that the system will be built using other funds; this is much the better choice, because every single cent of the money raised for relief must be spent for relief.

This will mean that setting up the system of alerts will take a little more time. But unlike the victims on the ground, time is on the side of the early warning system. The magnitude 9.0 earthquake off Sumatra was actually detected by various institutes, including the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty office in Vienna. But there was no one in the affected countries to receive the information. In other words, a similar earthquake or tsunami in the same area can already be detected; the problem is the absence of a local emergency infrastructure.

But perhaps the summit's best work was promoting debt relief for some of the affected countries. The high-level discussion last Thursday must have helped add momentum to the campaign led by the United Kingdom to convince the world's most industrialized countries to offer temporary debt relief to the stricken. By the weekend, UK Chancellor Gordon Brown was able to announce the policy as a G-7 consensus, and confidently predicted that other members of the so-called Paris Club of creditor countries will soon follow suit.

The amount involved, according to Brown, is almost equal to the total value of aid pledges: some $4 billion. The debt relief may be temporary (possibly a year), but the impact will be longer-lasting. Some of the affected countries are among the most heavily indebted in the world: Indonesia owes $132 billion, India $104 billion, Thailand $59 billion. As a proportion of gross domestic product, the debt numbers are even more staggering: 80 percent for Indonesia, 59 percent for Sri Lanka, 48 percent for Thailand, 45 percent for the Maldives.

Debt relief, however short-term, is the international community's best form of aid.



A spiteful and envious mind

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

It is the pleasure of old people to recall the days when they were young and vigorous and full of hope and ambition

I RECEIVED many cordial congratulations for my article "On turning 80" (PDI, 10/10/04) from contemporaries who were happy to extend me a warm "welcome to the club" of advanced senior citizens. They said I was now entitled like them to the usual privileges given to octogenarians, like allowances for loss of memory and occasional infantile behavior as in second childhood.

We all had a good laugh. I really enjoyed their greetings and sincerely thanked them for joining in my happiness. They showed me that conviviality, more than misery, loves company.

One reader, however, was not equally pleased. In fact, he was resentful and imputed to me boastful motives. He said the article "gave (him) the impression that (I) seem superfluous in self-laudation, expressing praise, commendation and self-satisfaction in (my) many accomplishments...

"I can't help to wonder how many oldsters in the 70s and 80s who did not make the grade felt after reading your essay," he lamented. "How degraded they must be for being 'failures'... The truth is that the lives of these 'failures' are made more miserable because the ones who have made it in life are not willing to allow them to forget the successes of some of their contemporaries."

Part of such successes, he concluded in a pique of envy and selfishness, "spells LUCK." For this, he suggested, although he did not actually say so, I cannot claim any credit. I should not be so egoistic, he said, if I had not been just lucky for being "in the right place at the right time." (Like being the millionth visitor to a fair?)

I suppose this was a happenstance he did not enjoy, which is why he felt so frustrated. My first impulse on reading his letter was to throw it in the trash can where it belonged. On second thought, however, I decided to write this reply and exorcise, if I can, the bitterness that must be gnawing at this man's soul.

The malicious impression he got from my article is his, not mine, nor did I give it to him. If he felt dejected and excluded, that is his problem, not mine. Contrary to his accusation, I was not showing off for that is not in my nature. I was merely narrating some of my pleasant memories and sharing them with my readers, whom I consider my friends.

It is the pleasure of old people to recall the days when they were young and vigorous and full of hope and ambition. The present has become a plateau and the future is a time they can only await but no longer anticipate. Memories, especially the cherished ones, are like caresses from the past that enable them to re-live the adventures of the vanished years.

That is what I felt when I looked back in my article. There was no vain or wicked purpose to compare myself with others without similar recollections.

The suggestion that my intention was to make others feel miserable for their failures is an inane malediction. Only the malicious can entertain such a cruel thought. The writer of that letter must presume the worst in every human being and suspect that everything a person does is aimed to molest his innocent neighbor. That is what he has convicted me of with his disaffected mind.

Rather than rejoice with me for my fond memories, he has decided that I am a churlish person whose purpose in life is to compare myself with others and put them in a bad light. I do not even know who those others are, what he describes as their failures, and why I should criticize them at all. Yet he would make me the ultimate villain for saying I am better than those others who should be ashamed of their failures.

Most of us think of the best in people (except crooks in general and politicians in particular), but the person who wrote that letter is an angry exception. He is a hater who thinks that every guileless act conceals bad intentions. He must be a lonely man. As he has revealed that he is spiteful and unwilling to see others enjoy themselves, he will be, for charity's sake, nameless in this piece.

I thought at first of replying to him privately to correct those ugly thoughts that are warping his heart and mind. I have decided, however, to do this in this column, just in case there are some who think as darkly as he does. The many other letters I have received on that article were cheerful and affable, but there may be one or two like him who are lurking in the shadows. I hope they will see the light even if he does not.

Hope whisperer

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

HAVE you heard the story about the three men who died smiling? The first one was an American who ate plenty of steak and died, happy and smiling, after suffering a heart attack. The second one was a French man who drank plenty of wine and died, happy and smiling, after suffering a heart attack. The third one was a Filipino. Amid thunder and lightning, he went out smiling, thinking there was some picture-taking going on. He got hit by a lightning and died, happy and smiling.

* * *

Today's Gospel (Mt. 3, 13-17) tells us that after Jesus was baptized by John at the Jordan River, the Father's voice was heard: "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased." If the Father were looking at you right now, would He be happy and smiling? Are you living a life pleasing to the Father? Is the Father happy and smiling looking at your family? Is He happy and smiling looking at our country? Is He happy and smiling looking at the world today?

* * *

We are children of one and the same Father, and it must be a pleasing sight for Him to see us helping each other after the tsunami that swept South Asia. It is so heartening to hear that all nations are trying to give their share to help the victims of the cataclysmic Dec. 26 tragedy. Finally, hopefully, we are learning our lesson. Instead of spending millions to spy on and kill each other, we are now helping one another. The Father must be smiling seeing us reach out to one another again as brothers and sisters.

* * *

"Let it be so for now." There are many things that are beyond our control in this life. We must admit our limitations and our human condition. There are so many things we cannot comprehend, explain, or understand. It is our faith, our belief in Someone greater than you and me, that help us to cope and go on. Without faith, life would be a dead-end. Without faith, life—with all its tragedies and broken dreams—would be a relentless series of earthquakes and tsunamis, with no end in sight. Faith is a gift, for it lets us see beyond what meets the eye. Faith gives us meaning, and hope. Thank God for the faith we have received through our baptism.

* * *

We must not stop at the calming effect of faith in our lives. True faith should disturb us, stir us and move us. Our faith should not just be a spare tire—just there, in case of a flat tire. Rather, it should be the engine that should keep us going, that should bring us to our earthly mission, that should lead us to our final destination. Check your engine. Maintain your engine. If necessary, overhaul your engine.

* * *

We are now on television every Sunday, 7 a.m., at Studio 23, for a Sunday TV Mass and a talk show to deepen the faithful's appreciation of the Sunday Gospel. It is our way of spreading our faith worldwide, through media. What have you done, what are you doing to share the faith? Note that we are not talking of imposing our faith on others. Instead of triumphalism or the holier-than-thou stance, we are talking of dialogue, respect, appreciation of the faiths of other people.

* * *

We pay tribute to "Tatang" Orly Punzalan who spent many years of his life spreading the faith through radio, particularly Radyo Veritas. Here was one person who shared his talent in broadcasting and his faith by broadcasting. Shouldn't we all be busy sharing our talents and sharing our faith through our talents, which are, after all, God-given?

* * *

I had Christopher de Leon and his son Rafael in our talk show recently, and I could feel the closeness of this father-and-son duo. I was particularly touched by their mutual respect for one another. So evident too was Christopher's pride and delight in his son. Rafael is a son that is pleasing to his father. May parents raise sons and daughters who will give them (parents) joy and pride; and may the children be blessed with parents who don't give them too much resentment, heartaches and shame.

* * *

By the way, Christopher de Leon was the "horse whisperer" during the burial of Fernando Poe Jr. Unknown to many, it was Christopher who fed, entertained and encouraged the horse Tisoy to go on in spite of the fatigue, the heat, the noise and the crowd. The more I think about it, the more I see the role of parents as whisperers (not "shouters") of hope, encouragement and love. Children need parents who not only feed or clothe them, but who whisper to them what life is all about. If parents themselves do what is right, they don't have to shout, for they can say their truth "quietly and clearly." And they too need not say much, for "They say little who have much."

* * *

May we all become hope whisperers. We need, today, men and women who will stand up and inspire hope despite the dark clouds hovering around us. Let each one of us give not only love, but hope for and in each other.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:
Lord, make everyone a love whisperer, a hope whisperer to others. Amen.

* * *

E-mail: jorbos@manila-online.net

The Athenian Code of Conduct

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

FOR the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the year 2004 represents the low point in its history. Never before was the institution subjected to such harsh and strident criticism from the public in reaction to the grave misconduct of several of its senior officers and of a young lieutenant newly commissioned into the regular force. The common denominator of these officers charged with corruption and other forms of criminal activity was a shared alma mater, the Philippine Military Academy. For decades, this proud symbol of the finest in Filipino soldiery held our people's trust and respect as the premier military institution of the land.

Today, six years after marking its centennial, the reputation of the Academy is in tatters, seriously tainted by the charges of graft and corruption filed against a number of its graduates, its esteemed position endangered and its foundation shaken up by forces greater than tsunamis. The problems involving PMA graduates have appalled our people. Taking note of the moral disintegration of some of the products of this once unassailable institution, people have started to raise valid questions about the Academy. The cadet who is sent to Fort del Pilar is one of the highest paid *pensionados* of the government. Filipino taxpayers spend more than P2 million for each graduate. They are entitled to a fair return on their investment.

When faced by a crisis of this magnitude, an organization can either bury its head in the sand and hope that the crisis blows over or resolves itself in any manner, or it [organization] can face the music and accept responsibility for the current state of affairs and move to adopt necessary measures to correct the weaknesses in its system. Unknown to many of our people, the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association (PMAAA), fully aware of the critical situation facing its graduates, in particular, and the Armed Forces, in general, has taken steps aimed at the restoration of the trust and confidence of our people in the institution.

One of the more significant programs of the PMAAA is the renewal and updating of its Code of Conduct both as a reminder and as a challenge for its members in the military, police and civilian life—a reminder of what our people expect of them in the performance of their duties, and a challenge to provide the leadership so vital for the survival and progress of our nation. We have taken this matter for granted for too long a time, forgetting that a soldier's life is one of service, not of material gain or advancement.

From what I have seen, this Code of Conduct is brief and concise unlike other documents on the same subject, which have tended to be lengthy and all-encompassing in content. Somehow it evoked a similar code of conduct observed by the young men of ancient Athens in the form of an oath taken upon reaching the age of 17. At that time, Athens was at the summit of its golden era and was the unrivaled power of the Mediterranean world.

> **"We will never bring disgrace on this our City**
> **by an act of dishonesty or cowardice.**
> **We will fight for the ideals and Sacred Things of the City**
> **both alone and with many.**
> **We will revere and obey the City's laws and will do**
> **our best to incite a like reverence and respect in those above us**
> **who are prone to annul them or set them at naught.**
> **We will strive increasingly to quicken**
> **the public's sense of civic duty.**
> **Thus in all these ways we will transmit**
> **this City, not only not less, but greater and**
> **more beautiful than it was transmitted to us."**

Perhaps we also need a code of conduct, not just for our soldiers or our public officials and employees, but for all our people starting from the age of 17. It shouldn't be too wordy or too complicated; more along the Athenian model.

* * *

Having raised the subject of codes of conduct, let me also share the views of the late Sen. Claro M. Recto. More than 50 years ago, he was honored with a parade and review by the Armed Forces at Fort William McKinley (now Fort Bonifacio). For his speech, he was asked to dwell on the subject of the "Code of the Filipino Citizen." Recto started by saying that the "Code of the Filipino Citizen" is no different from the codes of other countries. It is basically a compilation of standards of behavior made in accordance with certain rules inherent in the life of each and every Filipino. "If I tell you that you must obey the Constitution and the laws, that governments, to be legitimate, must derive their just powers from the consent of the governed and that they are instituted for the happiness of the people; that honesty and integrity must be inseparable from the tenure and performance of public trusts; that the Armed Forces are the guardians of the liberties of the people and the institutions of the Republic and they must be the first to defend them and protect them and the last to destroy them and violate them…your immediate reaction would be to answer me by saying that you know this and you need not be told about it.

"So the problem lies not in the lack of knowledge of these principles, these norms of conduct in citizenship but in how to give vitality and efficacy to them so that they may be ever present in your minds and become an inseparable part of your daily behavior….it is not, therefore, merely the knowledge of codes but their faithful observance, that is of importance."

A health scandal

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN "THE V Book: A Doctor's Guide to Complete Vulvovaginal Health," Dr. Elizabeth G. Stewart and her co-author Paula Spencer have this to say about the Pap smear: "It's the single most cost-effective disease screening test known to modern medicine. Since the introduction of the Pap smear, cancer rates and death rates from cervical cancer have drastically dropped…"

I've put an ellipsis at the end of the sentence because what Dr. Stewart didn't mention is that the Pap smear has led to plunging cancer and death rates due to cervical cancer mainly in the developed world. This is because, thanks to widespread information drives and public health programs, women in developed countries are quite aware of the need to have the test done regularly, and can afford to pay for this fairly simple and low-cost procedure.

In the developing world, though, public awareness about the Pap smear and about cervical cancer is still fairly low, and only a few women have come to think of screening as part of their routine health care. Thus, while the World Health Organization estimates that about 510,000 women worldwide are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year and some 288,000 of them will die of the ailment, the vast majority of the fatalities will be from developing countries, including the Philippines.

While crucial for diagnosing cervical cancer, the Pap smear and similar tests are only screening tools. As Dr. Stewart notes: "While the Pap smear is a lifesaver when it comes to identifying abnormalities of the cervix before they develop into cancer, it's not a test for anything else. A normal Pap doesn't mean everything is all right with the V's (vagina and vulva); it only means no precancer cells were found in the cervix."

And yet many women, and doctors as well, seem to rely on the Pap smear to screen for other infections and problems. Dr. Wen del Rosario Raymundo, an OB-Gyn and investigator on the cervical cancer vaccine trial at the San Pablo Colleges Medical Center, tells of patients who think of Pap smear as "*pagpapalinis*" (cleansing) of genitals. Apparently, not even their doctors had told them what exactly a Pap smear is.

* * *

AS I wrote in yesterday's column, cervical cancer is the only form of cancer whose cause is known and easily identifiable. The onset and even precursors of cervical cancer are also easy to identify and the precancerous cells themselves take from three to 10 years to develop into cancer. It is even possible to reverse cancerous or precancerous conditions, through strategies ranging from adapting a healthier lifestyle to laser or invasive surgery. And with the ongoing "Patricia" (PApilloma TRIal for the Prevention of Cervical Cancer in Young Adults) trial for a vaccine, it may well soon be the only preventable form of cancer.

Given all that we know about it, it's clearly a scandal why so many women continue to die of cervical cancer.

Dr. Genara Manuel-Limson, chief investigator for the Patricia trial in the Philippines, says without irony that cervical cancer "is a good cancer to fight," as both patient and doctor are given plenty of chances to diagnose, treat and recover from the disease. She outlines the following "protocol" for the diagnosis and treatment of cervical cancer:

A woman should go for her first Pap smear three years after her first intercourse. This, no matter how early she starts becoming sexually active, as early sexual initiation is considered a risk factor. She should then go for a Pap smear at least once a year, though after three consecutive "normal" Pap results, she may need to go for the tests only at two-three year intervals.

* * *

THERE are alternative procedures to the Pap. Increasingly popular is the "acid wash," which calls for staining a woman's cervix with a solution and allows the doctor or clinic personnel to visually observe the presence of lesions. Doctors also warn against the many "false negatives" from "traditional" Pap smears, mainly because the commonly used cotton swabs don't easily offer up all the cells they harvest. Out on the market now are testing kits that use brushes and allow for better "harvests." It should also be clear that the accuracy of a Pap smear result depends highly on the skills of the lab technicians analyzing the samples. It also matters how soon the patient gets the lab results, not the least of which is to reduce the period of anxiety that she must endure.

If the clinician finds "abnormal" results from the Pap smear, the patient will most probably be told to undergo a colposcopy, which allows for a more detailed microscopic examination of the cervix. In case of "equivocal" findings, says Dr. Limson, the doctor will also probably order an HPV DNA test, which will confirm whether the patient has an HPV infection (two types of HPV—out of possibly 100—are directly linked to cervical cancer). The problem with an HPV DNA test, at this point, is that it's fairly expensive, about P2,000 a procedure.

* * *

BUT even with a positive HPV finding, it's still not the end of the world, or the beginning of cervical cancer. What doctors look for, says Dr. Limson, is "persistent" HPV infection. A sexually active woman in her 20s, she says, will probably test positive for HPV, which is fairly common, but will be able to get rid of it. But if she still tests positive for HPV 10 years later, her doctor will begin to watch her more closely as persistent infection could lead to cervical cancer.

All the doctors stress the need for regular screening, as cervical cancer in the early stages displays no symptoms. If a woman reports pain in her genital area, abnormal discharge or bleeding, "she's probably in the late stage already," says Dr. Limson.

Leadership and the common good

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THERE are many ways of classifying leaders. One way I find particularly useful to our current situation in the Philippines is based on a scheme developed by the American sociologist Amitai Etzioni. He differentiates leaders by the type of power they use and the kind of compliance they elicit from those they govern.

He says that leaders who rely mostly on coercive power to achieve their goals tend to develop alienative or resentful compliance among their followers. Leaders who primarily depend on remunerative power encourage calculative compliance. They do not get more than what they pay for. In contrast, leaders who deploy moral power are rewarded by normative compliance. A style of leadership breeds its own type of followers. The most enduring type of power, Etzioni says, is the moral one.

These are insights we can use to understand the leadership problems of our society.

The government of President Macapagal-Arroyo is not a coercive regime, but neither does it thrive on the moral commitment of its citizens. President Arroyo herself is neither authoritarian nor charismatic. Her style is that of a politician par excellence: she pays her way to power. As a result, the kind of compliance she gets from those she deals with tends to be calculative—meaning, people stay with her only for as long as she is useful to them. They neither fear nor respect her. Her periodic resort to threatening talk, like her public display of religious piety, persuades no one. It only breeds antipathy and distrust.

In his book, "The New Golden Rule" (1996), Etzioni writes: "Clearly, no society can entirely rely on a single source of motivation to help sustain compliance with the dictates of the social order. Thus, totalitarian societies rely to some extent on incentives and attempts at persuasion; and libertarian societies rely to some extent on force. Similarly, communitarian societies cannot and do not rely only on normative means. They still pay their civil servants, command police forces, and so on. However, they rely on normative means much more extensively, and their members are much more committed to maintaining order and much less likely to seek to undermine it than members of other societies. In short, the order of good societies relies significantly more on the moral voice than do other types of society."

For the last couple of years, the anti-gun social activist Nandy Pacheco has had the same insight into the nature of power. He saw the brittleness of the changes instituted under coercion, and the superficiality of the discipline bred and enforced by martial law. Filipinos could not wait to return to the old ways as soon as the regime was dismantled. Edsa 1 could have been the start of a new moral order, but its communitarian message was pre-empted by the reactivation of the obsolete culture of dependence and patronage. Edsa 2 gave us another chance at national renewal; the moral voice against corruption and profligacy in government resounded loud and clear. But again, the energy could not be sustained. Today the country is back to where it was just before martial law.

It's not anger or hope that fills the air, however. It's exhaustion and indifference. Less and less Filipinos care to do anything to alter the course of things; they just want to escape. The Arroyo government survives not because of the active support of the citizens, but simply because the alternative is unthinkable. People think the next upheaval may not be as tame as the two Edsas.

Pacheco himself says he would not be inveigled into joining another Edsa. Not because he is tired, but because he thinks such political upheavals in our national life have been made to substitute for the steady and painstaking work for a better society. The only way the country can avoid the violent cleansing that seems to loom ahead, he says, is by restoring the ethical dimension to our public life. And this cannot be done overnight.

Pacheco's preferred mode of intervention is the formation of a national political party founded on the ideology of the common good. He calls it "Ang Kapatiran" or the Alliance for the Common Good. Here are Kapatiran's 10 ethical principles: Belief in God, Respect for life and human dignity, Strengthening of the family, Community participation, Basic rights and responsibilities, Preferential option for the poor and the vulnerable, Dignity of work and rights of workers, Care for nature as God's creation, Peace and active nonviolence, Solidarity and commitment to the common good.

Kapatiran's primer begins thus: "People need to be informed that the absence of responsible and accountable political parties with specific policy objectives, issues and concerns that promote the common good has been a major contributory factor to the problems that we now face." How true! Our political life today is the way it is because it has failed to tap the single resource in which our society is rich—solidarity. The "moral voice of the community" of which Etzioni speaks is strong in our tradition. The kind of citizenship it forms is more enduring because it draws on existing value commitments. The commitment it elicits is superior because "it is voluntary, rather than bought or forced."

Up to now, our notion of political democracy has been modeled after the market, where loyalties are bought like commodities. Etzioni, the scholar, and Pacheco, the social activist, are telling us that it is time to re-affirm democracy as a value commitment to pursue the common good.

* * *

Comments to davidinquirer@yahoo.com

Obituaries and reasons

HIGH BLOOD

Flor Lacanilao

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

AFTER RETIRING six years ago, I have observed some things I hardly noticed before.

Let me start with obituaries. Reading them has become a daily habit. When I come across a death notice on somebody who died at the age of 50 or 60, I am thankful to be healthy at 70 and, mind you, with my hair still black. Obituaries of people who die at the age of 80 or 90 make me wish I would live as long.

My interest in obituaries led me to conduct a "survey" of the death notices published in the INQUIRER from March to December last year. The survey covered 1,075 death notices, 620 of which were for men and 455, for women. Though not based on random sampling, the "survey" came up with some interesting findings. In 230, or 21 percent, of the obituaries, the profession of the deceased was shown. Nuns had the longest lifespan, averaging 85 years. The priests came next with an average of 80 years, followed by the doctors with 75 years, the military officers with 73, lawyers with 72 and engineers with 70.

On the average, men died much younger than women—71 against 78 years old. Doctors, who are supposed to have studied the human body, die younger than priests by an average of five years. The 67 doctors in the obituaries even included women who, on the average, live longer than men.

Our obituaries, unlike in other countries, greatly vary in size, suggesting social status (117 were large: one-fourth page and bigger; and 319 were small: less than one-fourth). Seventy-five was the average age of the dead in the large obituaries; 72 in the small ones.

Many of those who announce the death anniversaries of their loved ones request readers to pray for the eternal repose of the souls of the departed, never mind if they have been dead for years. I wonder how many readers heed their call for prayers. And I doubt if one could appeal the fate of a soul denied of eternal rest on Judgment Day.

From obituaries, let me go to wedding anniversaries. Many couples renew their wedding vows. Does this mean their marriage or relationship has weakened through the years that it has to be renewed? Or does this mean that they need a fresh start (which is no longer possible), or a reminder that they are still married? Either way, the "renewal" of wedding vows could be interpreted to mean that a marriage has failed or is failing.

Recently, I was at the golden wedding anniversary of a cousin, who was celebrating the event with his wife largely in thanksgiving. There was no renewal of wedding vows. He explained that wedding vows are unlike a driver's license, which has to be renewed because it expires. But the celebrants gave each other a golden ring in celebration of the 50 years (perhaps the old rings were not made of gold and had faded) they've been together as husband and wife. No words were spoken in the exchange of the rings because everyone already knew what it meant.

I have had more observations when I go to our farm in Quezon province. For instance, a big arch shows the name of a town as you enter it. On leaving that town, you see another big arch but without the next town's name. Instead, written on it are the big letters "Salamat Po." While frequent travelers take such signs for granted, they mislead tourists and puzzle visitors who expect to see the name of the next town. Thus, tourists conclude that a town is between two municipalities of the same name: Salamat Po.

My 9-year-old granddaughter was telling me what she just learned in school. Her teacher had told them that old tires dropped into the sea could serve as fish shelter. The idea must have come from a government program—introduced some 20 years ago—promoting the use of old tires to build artificial fish habitats. But artificial habitats or reefs are also effective fish-aggregating devices popular among American anglers to improve their catch. In the Philippines, this can lead to overfishing.

Copying from developed countries without careful study may do more harm than good. Japan and the United States can strictly enforce fishery laws, but the Philippines cannot. Hence, our use of old tires as artificial habitats only serves as a fish-attracting device, which leads to further depletion of our already overfished coastal areas. I hope such wrong or obsolete ideas and concepts are not taught in children's textbooks.

We are probably the only country where both the metric and English systems of measure are used. Floor area is expressed in meters, tiles in centimeters. But textile is measured in yards, and lumber is sold in feet and inches. Meat and fruits are weighed in kilograms and grams, but babies' weight is commonly given in pounds and ounces. Water companies sell in cubic meters, but water tanks in subdivisions are marked in gallons. Children, even from exclusive schools speak of feet and inches more than meters and centimeters. So do government leaders and media people. We have been so influenced by Americans. Is it not that by law the Philippines has adopted the metric system just like most other countries? This is the reason companies are required to label locally made goods in kilograms, grams, liters, milliliters, etc. As usual, some refuse to comply. And a mix of metric and English units is seen in advertisements. As the dean of the UP College of Law noted of traffic violations in the Philippines, "Laws are mere suggestions, compliance optional, punishment negotiable."

I think we should have valid reasons for doing things, if we are to move forward. Common practice and tradition are reasons hardly good enough to justify our actions.

Flor Lacanilao, 70, is a retired professor of Marine Science from the University of the Philippines, Diliman.

THEY SAID

Spiritually starved

"Our gift-giving this year must focus on both the victims of disasters and calamities, and those who, by misusing and abusing their power, authority and influence, are morally impoverished and spiritually starved."

—Archbishop Fernando Capalla, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines

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TALK of the TOWN

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jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Are we ready for a tsunami? (2)

A TSUNAMI (pronounced soo-NAH-mee) is rare but destructive. The tsunami spawned by a magnitude 9 earthquake in the Indian Ocean on Dec. 26 killed more than 150,000 people in 12 countries in South and Southeast Asia and on the east coast of Africa.

World leaders, who gathered in Jakarta on Jan. 6 to figure out the best way to speed up aid to victims, agreed that a tsunami warning system like the one in place in the Pacific should be established in the Indian Ocean as quickly as possible. "It is proven that 10 minutes advance warning can save hundreds of lives." Thai Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai said.

Without a reliable warning system in place, coastal communities in the country are at the mercy of tsunamis. Knowing what tsunamis are can also save lives. A tsunami scare had sent thousands of residents of Pagadian, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi running to the hills on Thursday following an earthquake.

Tsunamis travel at the speed of a jet. Far-field tsunamis in the Pacific Ocean may take 2 to 18 hours to travel before they reach the east coast of the Philippines. But waves from locally generated tsunamis can hit the shore in 2 to 30 minutes, according to Filipino scientists.

Local government officials admit that they are not ready for a tsunami. To save lives and property, the government must come up with a tsunami-preparedness plan.

We have yet to make preparations

By Gov. Victor Agbayani
Pangasinan

The tsunami that occurred in the Indian Ocean is an eye opener to Pangasinan, a coastal province with 13 towns and cities along the Lingayen Gulf facing the South China Sea.

While we have developed a high level of preparation in coping with disasters brought about by typhoons and flooding, we have yet to have preparations for tsunamis. The disasters are similar because they both involve unmanageable water. But the similarity ends there.

Floodwaters rise gradually. We have flood warning systems and even our communities can gauge water behavior and the gravity of the situation. We have equipment to evacuate people and municipalities and communities have ready evacuation areas.

Tsunamis, on the other hand, come suddenly and whatever action local governments can take will be entirely dependent on international or national tsunami warning systems.

Warning

Will there be enough time between the warning and the disaster? We understand that depending on the distance of the origin, the lead time can be minutes or hours.

We hope that effective international and national tsunami warning systems can be put in place and that the national government will recognize the need and invest in the necessary equipment and technology.

Local governments can conduct responsible information campaigns, determine appropriate evacuation centers and conduct drills. Existing provincial, municipal and barangay disaster coordinating councils can be mobilized.

National and local governments should begin to discuss the tsunami event and determine the parameters of preparation activities—the realities and constraints of science and funding in relation to a calamitous event, which is possible but which has a very low probability of occurrence, and then decide what preparations or responses can be made.

Our folks don't even know what a tsunami is

By Mayor Jeffrey Khonghun
Subic, Zambales

Subic and any other coastal areas of Zambales are definitely not prepared for a tsunami. Our local folks do not even know exactly what a tsunami is.

They are not aware of how such natural phenomenon occurs and how serious its impact can be. Some don't even realize that our town is vulnerable to tsunamis.

So, how can we be ready for something we have not seen in real life?

Our town will surely be wiped out of the map in case a tsunami hits us. Tall waves might submerge the entire town of Subic because we are facing the sea and no one will be spared.

It will be very difficult for every one of us to survive since our knowledge about tsunamis is not that sufficient.

Beyond imagination

The tsunamis that hit several countries in Asia and claimed thousands of lives were beyond our imagination. Only on television and newspapers did we see the devastating effects of a tsunami. Only through reports did our people realize that a tsunami is one serious thing we all have to be aware of and prepared for.

But honestly, the local government unit of Subic is not ready for such disaster. We do not even have communication equipment to warn of impending tsunami.

The only thing we can do right now is to study well the nature of tsunamis. It will be hard for the people of Subic to prepare for them since there has been no experience of local tsunami occurrence.

We will only be relying on the moves of the national government. We cannot do it alone in the local aspect. If national meetings are conducted to address this threat, then we will be there.

Learn from experience

But the easiest way to make our people ready for it is to keep them aware of the impact of tsunamis and inform them of ways to survive the disaster. We will try to gather all information needed to arm ourselves and our people against killer waves.

What is important now is that to learn from the experiences of countries that were devastated by killer waves.

It would be better if the national government could immediately upgrade its equipment in determining future calamities, not just typhoons, but more so in warning of impending tsunamis. We will try to adopt modern warning systems to inform our people of any tsunami.

The local government units will always be doing their share in keeping the people safe from disasters.

(Editor's Note: *Subic is located southwest of Luzon, about 110 km northwest of Manila. Strategically positioned in the dynamic Asia-Pacific region, Subic Bay occupies 60,000 hectares, including some areas of its neighbors, Zambales and Bataan.*)

Relax use of calamity funds

By Gov. Ben P. Evardone
Eastern Samar

Aside from being situated in Asia's typhoon belt, the Philippines lies in the Pacific seismic Rim of Fire. It is regularly shaken by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

The tsunami that claimed more than 150,000 lives across South and Southeast Asia could thus occur here and bring death and destruction to coastal communities.

Eastern Samar, admittedly, with 21 of its 23 municipalities along the coastline directly facing the Pacific, is vulnerable to a tsunami.

In fact, even just gigantic waves during typhoons can already bring havoc to residents of coastal barangays. How much more of tsunamis?

Because a significant number of Eastern Samareños are fishermen, it is next to impossible to convince them to relocate to barangays in the hinterlands. I will not even dare try.

Breakwater

One of the priority projects of local government units is the construction of breakwater or coastal barriers. But these massive projects are very costly and sometimes destroy the pristine beauty of our beaches. Hence, we have to resort to other measures to cushion the impact of natural calamities.

We adopted last year a Provincial Disaster Preparedness Plan, which is aimed at providing direction, control, supervision, mobilization and coordination at the provincial, municipal and barangay levels of all available public and private resources, organizations, and facilities that can be utilized in cases of natural and man-made calamities.

We have set up a 24-hour Provincial Disaster Operations Center with the Civil Defense Deputized Coordinator as action officer. Under the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council, we have organized several action teams with their corresponding specific tasks.

These are:

- Intelligence and Disaster Analysis Team. This evaluates information and prepares advisories of impending disasters.
- Plans and Operations Team. This has formulated specific action plans for various types of disasters.
- Resource Management Team. This is tasked with determining the urgent items needed by disaster victims.
- Public Information and Education Service Team. This is prepared and is set to implement a province-wide information drive on disaster preparedness.
- Communication and Warning Service Team. This will keep the public informed and warned of an impending disaster.
- Rescue, Evaluation, Fire Control and Security Service Team. This will organize the rescue and evacuation operations.
- Relief and Rehabilitation Service Team. This will organize the relief and rehabilitation efforts.
- Health and Sanitation Service Team. This will provide medical and sanitary services in disaster and evacuation areas.
- Engineering and Shelter Service Team. This will undertake emergency repair of damaged structure and provide emergency shelter centers.
- Emergency Transportation Service Team. This will provide the transportation needs of disaster victims and relief and rehabilitation operations.

These clusters, which are composed of representatives of the government and private sectors, practically cover the entire gamut of disaster preparation and operations—from analysis of impending disaster, rescue and relief operations to rehabilitation and reconstruction. In case of a disaster, these shall operate on a 24-hour basis. We have set up a province-wide communications hotline.

Because Eastern Samar is a coastal province, we have put emphasis on sea-related disasters. But this is not to say that we are capable of preventing casualties and damage in case of disasters. At least, we have a system in place.

Aside from mobilizing all the necessary resources from the government and private sectors, another equally important component that will make disaster preparedness more effective is giving people proper information on disaster preparations.

In addition, the Local Government Code and a circular on calamity fund should be amended, especially the provisions relating to the use of the fund for disaster preparedness. The circular was issued by the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Interior and Local Government.

The joint memorandum circular provides that "in extreme cases and under extraordinary circumstances, such as but not limited to, acts of terrorism and outbreak of dangerous and highly communicable diseases such as SARS, the calamity fund may also be utilized for disaster preparedness without need of Sangguniang declaration of calamity provided that there is a presidential proclamation on the existence of an adverse event that would warrant the declaration of the entire country to be under the state of national calamity, which need to be prevented or suppressed."

Straightjacket

This provision puts a straightjacket on the use of the calamity fund for disaster preparedness.

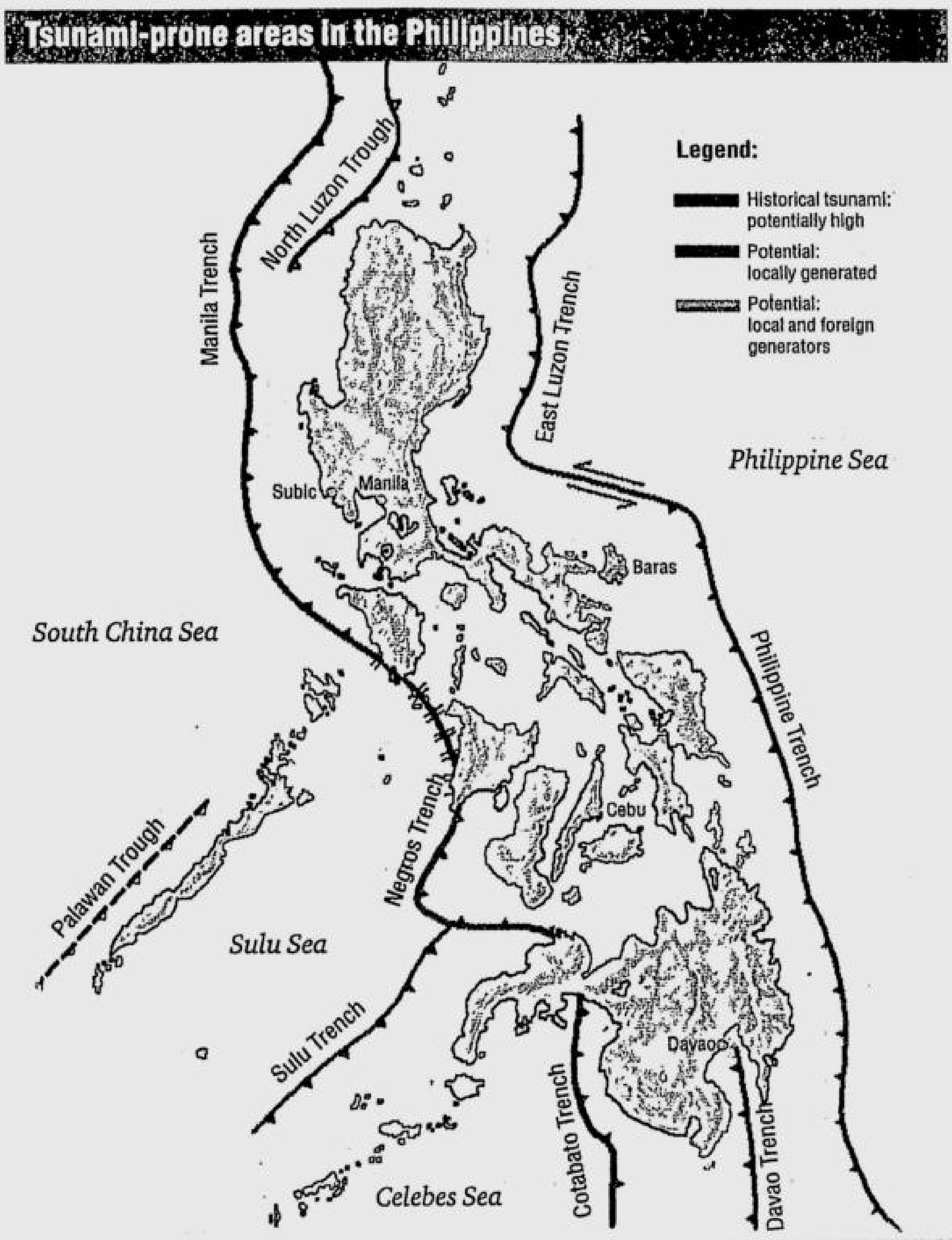
In light of the recent devastating typhoons that pummeled several provinces in the country and the tsunamis that hit 12 countries in South and Southeast Asia and on the east coast of Africa, the need to amend this provision to relax the use of the calamity fund for disaster preparedness has become more urgent.

But beyond these institutional and structural changes, what is paramount in disaster-preparedness plans is the support and cooperation of the people.

Of course, this should be coupled with prayers to spare our province and our country from calamities.

(Evardone is the spokesperson of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, the umbrella organization of local officials.)

Tsunami-prone areas in the Philippines



SOURCE: PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF VOLCANOLOGY AND SEISMOLOGY

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Eyewitness account

It was high tide but the seabed suddenly became exposed

By Gloria V. Magistrado

Baras is a town on the east coast of Catanduanes, facing the Pacific Ocean. Puraran Beach in this town is noted for its glittering white sand and is a tourist destination for surfing enthusiasts.

It was almost a ghost town during the early part of World War II, which broke out in the Pacific on Dec. 8, 1941. Most of the inhabitants evacuated to the mountains because they were eluding Japanese soldiers. Any civilian who failed to bow to a passing soldier will either be slapped, kicked or struck by the butt of his gun, if not pinned to the ground with a bayonet. Another reason people chose to reside temporarily in the mountains during the war was to plant crops for sustenance.

Our house is located in the center of the town two streets away from the seashore. We can even hear the sound of the waves crashing against the shore. Any occurrence in the sea can be clearly observed.

One sunny morning at about 10:00 in May 1942, while my father and elder sister were relaxing in the living room, we were suddenly jolted by a strong shaking of our house and heard rumbling outside. The figurines on tables and picture frames hanging on the wall started to fall. We had to brace ourselves on anything that would prevent us from falling. It was a strong earthquake. However, during that time there was no way to determine the magnitude of the quake. I was 11 years old then.

There were a series of aftershocks. The rivers and wells became muddy. The springs, which were the source of drinking water, also turned muddy and thus unfit for human consumption.

Moments after the earth shook violently, we heard people racing toward the sea because the waves receded despite the fact that it was high tide, exposing the seabed from the shore to the coral reef.

One could walk from the shore to the coral reef, 500 meters away, without getting wet. It was mind-boggling, because the event happened during high tide and the drying up was instantaneous. The fish and other sea creatures were caught off-guard. Some flew into the air to breathe then dropped to the seabed gasping.

The people easily collected several baskets of fish, prompting my father, my elder sister and I to join the others rushing toward the sea. There was indeed plenty of fish. We picked up enough for lunch and hastily ran back to shore afraid that the water might come rushing back in seconds. The rest, who wanted to gather more, remained.

Indeed, a few minutes after we reached the shore, the water returned. Fortunately, the flowing back of the seawater was gradual and there were no huge waves, for had there been one it would have been a catastrophic event.

(Magistrado is a retired professor of the Catanduanes State Colleges in Virac.)

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

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VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

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3 sergeants nabbed while transporting illegal logs

BUTUAN CITY—Police in Agusan del Sur arrested three soldiers and seized two military trucks carrying illegally cut timber in Trento town.

Supt. Ramon Espiritu, Agusan del Sur police director, yesterday said Monday's operation that led to the arrest of the three soldiers and the seizure was a major victory "against hoodlums in uniform."

"We don't care who they are, we spare no one," Espiritu told the INQUIRER.

Espiritu said the soldiers, identified as army sergeants Primo Gulaha, Roman Ladora and Ernesto Bacus, are with the Army's Forward Service Support Unit based in Davao City.

"We have had long been suspicious of their illegal logging activities," Espiritu said.

He said the operation was launched on Monday evening following a tip-off.

Espiritu said around 8:22 p.m., the two trucks, loaded with illegal forest products, passed by Barangay Lankilaan in Trento.

He said they have to fire shots because the soldiers initially refused to stop.

Seized was an estimated 3,684 board feet of logs with a market value of P73,683.

Charges

Espiritu said the soldiers were already charged with illegal logging.

He said the police were investigating deeper.

Earlier, Butuan City Rep. Leovigildo Banaag said the government's drive against illegal logging is headed for rough sailing if the reported involvement of ranking military leaders in illegal logging operations was true.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has declared a campaign against illegal logging in the aftermath of the floods that hit Southern Luzon last month.

At least 1,000 people died and hundreds of others are missing as a result of the flooding.

Ms Arroyo has named former spy chief, retired Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, head of the government's antilogging campaign.

Obstacles

But Banaag, chair of the committee on natural resources, said the drive would not succeed if people tapped to help are the ones engaged in illegal logging.

He said in Caraga region alone, there were persistent reports that corrupt Army officials are behind illegal logging.

"But we need to substantiate the charges," he said.

The New People's Army blamed the extensive tree plantation ventures in Caraga as the real culprit.

"Illegal logging is not to be blamed in the destruction of Caraga forests but the legal loggers," George Madlos, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front in Mindanao, said.

He said the ventures, mostly backed by local politicians and corrupt environment officials, have been openly abusing and exceeding permits to cut timber.

Benjamin Tumaliuan, Caraga environment director, dismissed the rebel group's claim.

He said his men have been strictly monitoring the logging activities of concessionaires and tree grower groups to prevent them from committing "excesses." *Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

TIMBER FIRM VS RESIDENTS

Townsfolk warn of war on logs

DINGALAN, Aurora—Residents of this typhoon-ravaged town are resisting government attempts to bring logs swept off the mountain to a sawmill, warning of war should this happen.

"If they proceed with the plan to take the logs out of here and bring these to Green Circle (Properties and Resources), I tell you there would be war," Benito Lopez, chair of the Samahan ng Magbubukid sa Umiray, told the INQUIRER on Friday.

He said the logs that littered the 27-km coastline of Barangays Butas na Bato, Cabog, Matawe, Ibona and Umiray should remain in the villages to help residents recover from the landslides that battered Dingalan on the heels of four typhoons in November and December last year.

Farmers have been unable to till while fishermen have not resumed catching *bangus* (milkfish) fry because farms have been buried in mud and the waters on the eastern side of the Pacific Ocean continued to be muddy.

The INQUIRER saw hundreds of farmers busy making charcoal and tending huge makeshift earth ovens near the shores, right on where the logs had drifted.

"The farms are gone. (This is) our only hope now," said Jimlee Billeca of Sitio Amutan, Butas na Bato. He stomped his feet hard on the soil that covered his 2x3-meter oven to ensure the even burning of wood.

They have also gathered the bigger trunks, setting these aside for housing materials.

In Umiray, a village of more than 1,000 families, at least 334 houses were destroyed, Lopez said.

In many houses, smaller trees were being dried and stacked as firewood.

Medium-sized ones were used as fences or buttresses against erosion.

"These came from nature. Why give it to one company that contributed to the calamity here?" Lopez said.

But other farmers have sold wood to Green Circle.

At the company's sawmill in Sitio Ferry, also in Umiray, the INQUIRER saw a crane moving what looked like freshly cut lumber despite Environment Secretary Michael Defensor's order for the company to pull out all its equipment and machines.

INQUIRER sources at the Natural Resources Development Corp. said NRDC chair Victor Corpus had turned down a proposal to bring the recovered logs to the sawmills of the Inter-Pacific Forest Resources Corp. (IFRC), Dwico and Green Circle.

In a memorandum, Reynaldo Astudillo, community environment and natural resources officer in Dingalan, ordered his team to confiscate the trees and equipment as well as file charges if the violation was confirmed.

The NRDC sources said Corpus, on instructions of President Macapagal-Arroyo, wanted the residents to benefit from the logs.

In a meeting with Dingalan Mayor Jaime Ylarde, DENR and NRDC representatives agreed that the agencies will retrieve the trees on the shoreline while the municipal government will get those strewn inland and in river channels. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

SOLDIERS invade Baguio to wage war against meningococcemia. VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON

Health execs conflict on outbreak tag as soldiers clean up Baguio

BAGUIO CITY—World Health Organization officials said there was no outbreak of meningococcemia in Baguio City, contradicting a statement made by Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit on Friday.

Dr. Luningning Villa, program manager of the emerging and re-emerging infectious unit of the National Center for Disease Prevention and Control of the Department of Health, said Baguio is officially on the meningococcemia alert based on WHO standards.

But she said calling the situation an outbreak is still debatable although Dayrit was interviewed on TV Friday describing the cases of meningococcemia in the city as "technically an outbreak."

"We are still assessing the situation. We need more information so it is difficult to say," said Dr. Hitoshi Oshitani, WHO regional adviser for communicable disease surveillance and response.

The WHO team assessed the 39 cases in Baguio and Benguet from March 21, 2004 to Jan. 7 this year and said 34 cases met their criteria for suspected meningococcal infection. The WHO team said four cases from December 2004 to Jan. 7 this year were confirmed to be meningococcemia.

Villa, also spokesperson of the newly formed meningococcemia command post maintained by WHO here, said cases of confirmed meningococcemia are being admitted daily at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC) from Dec. 25 to Jan. 7.

One to two suspected meningococcemia cases were admitted every day during that period except for Jan. 6.

Villa, Dr. Gerald Dziekan and Oshitani will be in Baguio to assess the situation in the next two weeks.

Villa said the patients' ages were between three months and 60 years, with the median age set at 16 years. Half of the cases (17 of 34) died, representing a 50-percent fatality rate.

"Christmas-related gatherings could have contributed to enhancing transmission of the disease," Villa said.

On Saturday, the summer capital's crisp, January cold air smelled of the pine fresh scent of disinfectant, courtesy of Army soldiers who volunteered to clean up downtown Baguio.

Businessmen on Session Road were surprised when at least 30 members of the 106th Benguet Ready Reserve Command pulled out brushes, soap dissolved in water and disinfectant tanks and began cleaning up the busy street.

Next week, the Army is scheduled to disinfect La Trinidad, Benguet, where some of the first meningococcemia cases were reported, San Juan said.

La Trinidad documented seven meningococcemia cases, with three fatalities last year.

The disease is transmitted by people, and not by their environment, said Dr. Antonio Bautista, leader of the team monitoring the disease.

Government efforts to clean up the city surroundings will help decongest areas that are prone to contamination, he said.

Dayrit earlier identified the Baguio City public market, which was also cleaned up and disinfected by the Army on Saturday morning, as the source of contamination.

Businessmen were seen appreciating the soldiers' efforts. *Frank Cimatu and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

NIA equipment torched in Albay

OAS, Albay—A grader owned by the National Irrigation Administration was torched by four suspected New People's Army members on Thursday evening in Barangay Busac here. Chief Insp. Enrique Ramos, Oas police chief, said the rebels were in two motorcycles. He said the destruction of the construction equipment will delay the completion of a dam project here. *Michael B. Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

NPA slain in Ragay clash

LEGAZPI CITY—A member of the New People's Army was killed Thursday morning during a clash with government troops, according to military reports. The government soldiers encountered about 20 NPA rebels at the vicinity of Barangay Cabadisan, Ragay, Camarines Sur, reports said. Recovered were M-14 rifles, two handheld radios, a hand grenade and antigovernment documents. There was no casualty on the government side, the report said. *Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

2,882 names in Laguna drug list

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—There were 2,882 names in the police watchlist for drugs in Laguna as of November 2004, according to the Laguna Provincial Police Office. In a report last December, Supt. Natalio Sanque said 1,094 of these names were pushers, while 1,788 were users. Sanque also reported that of the 674 barangays in Laguna, 260 were drug-affected. Police said 51 were "seriously affected," 32 "less seriously affected" and 177, "threatened to be affected." He also reported that in more than 68 antidrug operations in the province, about 95 drug users and 31 pushers were arrested. *Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Aid to typhoon victims

LEGAZPI CITY—The Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Camarines Sur has passed a resolution thanking the provincial government of Albay for its financial assistance of P100,000 to the typhoon victims in Camarines Sur. The Albay local government unit also gave financial assistance to typhoon victims in Camarines Norte, P100,000; Aurora, P100,000; and Quezon, P200,000. The funds came from the province's savings. *Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Woman nabbed for shabu

BALANGA CITY—Police here on Tuesday arrested a woman carrying 150.6 grams of shabu worth P300,000. Supt. Elmer Macapagal, Bataan police director, said Cely Cruz Manalang, 48, of Limay, Bataan, was arrested by PO1 Arlene de Mesa who posed as a buyer. Manalang identified her supplier as one "Papa" from Baguio City. Reports said De Mesa, who had been dealing with Manalang for a week, used P3,000 in marked money to start the deal. *Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Top C. Luzon cop leaves post

IBA, Zambales—The top official of the Central Luzon police on Thursday relieved Senior Supt. Wilson Victorio as police director of Zambales. Chief Supt. Rowland Albano, regional police director, approved Victorio's request to be relieved from his post, citing the condition of his ailing mother in the United States. Albano's order also directed Victorio to assume a post at the office of the national security adviser on his return from the United States to visit his mother. Albano named Supt. Arrasad Subong, Zambales deputy police director for operations, as acting police director of the province. *Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Man charged with murder

ROXAS CITY—A resident of Tapaz town is facing a murder complaint at the city prosecutor's office here for allegedly killing his live-in partner on New Year's Day. Anecito Fernandez, 53, was accused of repeatedly hacking and stabbing Evelyn Vidal, 55, inside her house in Barangay Luctogan here on Jan. 1. Although he was able to escape, Fernandez was arrested at about 6 p.m. of the same day in Barangay 9 for allegedly firing his gun. *Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Group raises furor over Bacolod cockfights

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Negros Sportsmen Inc. has asked the court to stop the Casino Filipino-Bacolod and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) from staging cockfights in its premises and elsewhere.

The NSI, represented by its president and manager, Eric Lacson, filed a civil case for injunction with damages against Casino Filipino, represented by Michael DJ. Bailey, and the Sacred Heart Seminary Lay Alumni Association Inc. represented by its officers Jesus Gromea, Salvador Perez, Jose Geroso and Jerry Tingson at the Bacolod Regional Trial Court Thursday.

In his petition, Lacson said Pagcor is bereft of any authority under the law to manage and operate a cockpit and host or stage cockfighting derbies.

Bailey declined to comment as he has yet to receive a copy of the NSI complaint.

The complaint said the Sacred Heart Seminary Lay Alumni Association Inc. on Nov. 4, 2004 sent a letter to the Casino through Bailey to hold a five-cock derby on Jan. 13, 14 and 15 , which was approved by Pagcor on Nov. 5.

NSI said it is not among the vested rights and privileges of Pagcor and the casino to stage derbies.

Juan Ramon Guanzon, president of the RG Guanzon Coliseum, said in a letter to City Councilor Arturo Parreño, chair of the city council's committee on ways and means, that the Casino Filipino-Bacolod had promoted cockfight derbies although it has no license to operate a cockpit.

The NSI said the "Sambuwa sa Casino" five-cock derby was a direct affront and malicious act against NSI as it had already announced in January 2004 that it was hosting a seven-cock derby on Jan. 18, 19, 20 and 22 to be staged at the Don Carlos J.A. Montilla Memorial Stadium in Tangub, Bacolod.

"It is imperative to issue prohibitory and mandatory writs of injunction restraining Pagcor from operating a cockpit inside the casino and to hold the staging of the five-cock derby," the petition said.

REPA
LIEF OPE
Nueva Ecij

ECIJA MISSION
A group called Calea led by its head Pia Alonzo (left) and vice president Lorenzo Langomez (middle) distributes relief goods to some 1,200 families in Nueva Ecija who were affected by recent typhoons. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INQUIRER Mindanao

E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Woman pushes cooperative for tribe

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Monkayo, Compostela Valley

SHE HAD expected it to happen: The Dibabawon residents of Sitio Cabangkalan in Barangay Casoon, Monkayo, Compostela Valley, consistently made her feel that she was someone they hated.

At first, Arlene Ibañes said she could not understand why she was being ostracized by the *lumad* (indigenous people) when all she wanted was just to help them. The answer, she found in her own self.

In a small community such as Cabangcalan, where everyone knows each other, speaks the same language and thinks almost exactly the same—seemingly contented with the absence of opportunities for them to explore—she was the perfect outsider who wanted to play a big role in transforming the villagers' lives.

For Ibañes, it was an ambition to see the community metamorphose into something better than their sad and unfortunate plight—a cyclical fact of life that the community would forever be shackled by poverty unless something was done.

For the villagers, her overtures were nothing but a show of intrusion. Or, perhaps, they were not opening up to her for fear of being frustrated in the end.

At a glance, Cabangcalan is a village that defines government neglect. The absence of government help that the people had longed for for many years made them cling to nothing but the thought that only a miracle could save them.

Ibañes arrived in the village in 1991 as a preschool teacher belonging to a nongovernment organization. At that time, armed encounters between the military and New People's Army (NPA) rebels were usual fare in the community, as in most villages in the outskirts of Compostela Valley. Monkayo was then one of the strongest lairs of the NPA.

The series of fighting worsened conditions in the village. The residents were forced to move out time and again, for fear of being caught in the crossfire.

Fear factor

Datu Kaning Sano, Cabangkalan tribal leader, said the armed conflict was the major reason the villagers were not able to plant crops. This, aside from the threat posed by paranoid military officers who tagged the villagers as guerrillas or their supporters and sympathizers.

"Many of us were beaten and tortured by the soldiers merely because we were suspected of being NPA members or their supporters. Our lives then were enveloped by fear," Sano said.

Ibañes, who moved around Compostela Valley to teach the "unschooled" children of farmers and fishermen, was also under suspicion when she arrived in the village. She said her activities and movements were constantly monitored by the military and its agents.

But the college undergraduate continued working for the children and encouraging the villagers to plant and do something else rather than be idle.

One day, as the fighting intensified, she persuaded the people not to evacuate to show their protest to the seemingly endless cycle of flight and stay, Ibañes said.

Winning move

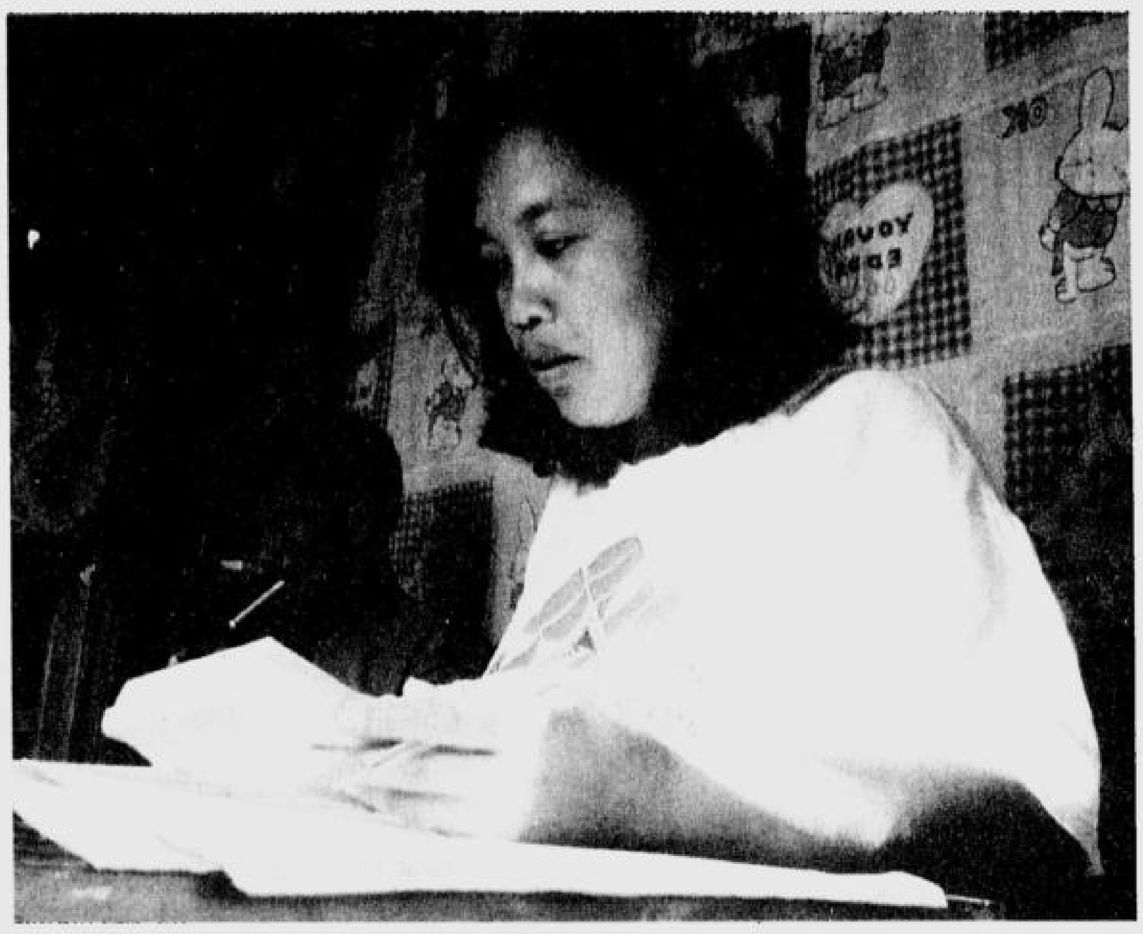
"Somehow, I felt that I was starting to win their respect and trust. They had all their things packed up and anytime they could have evacuated. But I felt that they were waiting for me... I did not leave the village and they stayed, too," said Ibañes, who later married a local.

"They needed someone to follow and I sensed that it was I," she added.

The showdown ended in 2001. It signaled a fresh start for Ibañes, with the support of Datu Sano, to organize the people.

That same year, the Cabangkalan Tribal Association was created, with 20 members. But Ibañes' agony did not stop. A few weeks later, some members backed out, taking along their share of capital amounting to P125-P250.

The gradual withdrawal of members was a blow to the association and created feelings of cynicism in the community. But Ibañes did not budge.


Ibañes while working on some documents of the cooperative that she helped build. JEFFREY TUPAS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Co-op's success

The cooperative was able to sustain operations even with fewer members. That was when prices of basic commodities rose sky-high.

"An ordinary painkiller was sold at P8 while 1/4 kilogram of salt was sold at P4... that was how expensive goods here were before," Sano said.

The cooperative, with rules and by-laws ordinarily written in Cebuano with Dibabawon translations, automatically deducts from the members' net income 10 percent as payment for loans.

In 2002, the cooperative caught the attention of the World Bank-funded Mindanao Rural Development Program (MRDP) because of its internal mechanisms that translated into sustenance and the motivated people that ran it.

However, the entry of MRDP again was not attractive to the *lumad*. "They were protesting because of this thought that the government would confiscate their lands if they failed to pay back the loans and stuff," Ibañes said.

"Again, we underwent a very bloody process of educating them, telling them what they could get from the project. There were those who easily understood, but there were a number who refused to understand. We assured them that as their leaders, we could not allow them to be abused," she added.

With the presence of the MRDP, the cooperative was able to expand its initial project, a banana plantation. It even bought the harvest of banana planters in their village who were nonmembers.

Bananas

Today, the cooperative covers at least 10 hectares of land devoted to bananas. Every week, the plantation yields at least 1,000 kg of bananas that the group delivers to the town.

"Before, we were planting bananas only for consumption. We didn't know that [they are] actually a good source of livelihood. We are very thankful that the government opened this window to us," Sano said.

Farmer Rey Bantas said that had it not been for the cooperative, it would be impossible for him to send his three children to school.

"When I was still planting corn, I derived a net income of only P3,000 or even P2,000 after harvest. Now I can earn that amount in just two weeks in my eight-hectare banana plantation," he said.

The cooperative also attracted the government even more, which recognized it as the best cooperative in Compostela Valley. The group used the cash that went along with the recognition to develop a fish cage in which to grow *tilapia*.

"I am very happy that because of the cooperative that was established, the lives of the people here are starting to change... Somehow I have proven to them that my intentions were for their welfare," Ibañes said.

"I have gained their trust and I will not fail them," she said.

The efforts of Ibañes are starting to pay off. The people in the village are now inspired as seen in their smiles when they welcome visitors.

A mystery named Allan Sy

By Anthony S. Allada
Davao City

WHEN the biggest shabu haul in Mindanao took place on New Year's Eve, suspected shabu manufacturing laboratory financier Allan Sy instantly became a household name in the city.

But aside from being the suspected financier, nobody appeared to really know who he is, even his own wife.

Sy, a Chinese national who married a Filipino, passed himself off as an investor in the city by starting several "businesses" including a foam and mattress manufacturing firm in Bunawan district.

Records from the Bureau of Immigration showed that Sy's real name is Shi Jin Seng. It was not indicated which part of China he came from but the records also said he is 39.

He first arrived in the country in 1995.

In October of that year, he applied in Manila for permanent residency in the country under the Alien Socialization and Integration Act or Republic Act 7919.

He listed his address as 164-D Antonio Street, 5th Avenue, Caloocan City.

BI alien control officer Benjamin Lao said Sy was a frequent traveler.

Lao said from February 1996 to June 21, 2004, Sy had 11 trips overseas, mostly to China.

He said plane tickets, recovered from Sy's properties during followup raids conducted by authorities, showed he had been to Thailand, too.

But Jed Pilapil-Sy, the suspected shabu financier's wife, said she met her husband in Manila as early as 1991.

By Jed's account, Sy's first record of arrival in the country was predated by at least four years.

'Very nice person'

Jed said she became Sy's good friend because "he is a very nice person who helped me a lot in my stay in Manila."

Later, they allegedly became lovers and decided to get married in 2000.

That year, her husband also opened Davao Nature's Food Corp., a firm producing junk food. Two years into business, Nature's shut down because of alleged misunderstanding between the stockholders.

Jed said that, in 2002, her husband started Fun Snack Corp., which later branched out to Iloilo and Cagayan de Oro City.

Then came the Polytex Davao Industrial Corp., a foam mattress manufacturing company in Bunawan.

Jed said she could not believe allegations her husband owned the shabu laboratory in Dumoy, Toril, which was raided by authorities on New Year's Eve. Six people were slain in that raid.

In followup operations conducted on Sy's other properties, authorities also seized various drug-making chemicals and arrested 11 more people, including Sy's "visiting" parents.

Supt. Wilkins Villanueva, director of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in southern Mindanao, said Sy used his businesses as a front for his illegal activities.

He said the suspect was already one of the region's biggest drug lords even before the discovery of the shabu laboratory.

He said they had a hard time arresting him because of his "many connections." But he would not elaborate.

In October 2004, Villanueva said they got information from the US Drug Enforcement Agency that "somebody" from China would be arriving in Davao to start a shabu manufacturing laboratory with Sy.

He said this was the reason they put the suspect under constant surveillance.

After gathering enough evidence, Villanueva said they applied for a search warrant and then conducted the raid.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Luzon Regional Office
Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** invites suppliers, manufacturers/installers/fabricators to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET
Re-roofing of Duplex Whse # 11	Cabanatuan City	P 3,000,000.00

SCHEDULE OF PRE-QUALIFICATION, PRE-BIDDING AND BIDDING

Issuance of Contractor's Eligibility Forms	Jan. 18-21, 2005
Deadline for Submission of Accomplished Contractor's Eligibility Forms & Requirements	Feb. 01, 2005
Issuance of Bid Documents	Feb. 10, 2005
Pre-bidding Conference	Feb. 22, 2005 (2:00 PM)
Submission and Opening of Bids	Mar 03, 2005 (2:00 PM)

All interested suppliers, manufacturers / installers / fabricators shall submit their Eligibility Statements and Bid Proposal in the prescribed forms to the Chairman of the Bid and Award Committee (BAC), National Food Authority, Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City.

Eligibility forms may be secured at the NFA-BAC Secretariat upon presentation of Letter of Intent and payment of non-refundable fee of Php 500.00 per project.

Bidding Documents and Plans shall be issued only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 2,000.00 per project.

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contractors shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and other applicable rules and regulations.

Venue for the Pre-bidding Conference, Submission and Opening of Bids shall be at the NFA-Conference Room, Regional Office, Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City.

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality and to accept only such bids or to award to any contractor whose bid is considered most advantageous to the National Food Authority.

The NFA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) RUBEN J. RESIDE
Asst. Regional Manager, RBAC Chairman

(PDI - January 9 & 15, 2005)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

FILIPINAS EYE CENTER FOUNDATION, Inc.

Construction and Creation of a National Eye Referral Center in the Philippines

Supply and Installation of a Generator Set at the Sentro Oftalmologico Jose Rizal

1. The Filipinas Eye Center Foundation, Inc. (FECFI) has received a grant from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) for the **"Construction and Creation of a National Eye Referral Center in the Philippines"**.
2. FECFI now invites sealed bids for the **Supply and Installation of a Generator Set at the Sentro Oftalmologico Jose Rizal**.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open international competitive bidding
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Filipinas Eye Center Foundation, Inc. (FECFI) and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English is available to interested bidders upon sending a written application through the fax number below. The document can be picked up at the FECFI office and/or sent by e-mail to the bidders.
6. Bids must be delivered at the address below on or before February 24, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of 2% of bid price. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who will opt to attend the bidding at the address below on February 24, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Marita V.T. Reyes
President
Filipinas Eye Center Foundation, Inc.
Sentro Oftalmologico Jose Rizal Building
Philippine General Hospital Compound
Taft Avenue, Manila
00-63-2-404-37-38 (Direct Line)
00-63-2-400-01-20 (Telefax)
fecfi@i-manila.com.ph

(PDI - Jan. 9, 2005)

INVITATION TO QUALIFY AND BID

DKT Philippines, Inc., a non-government, non-stock corporation, invites contractors, importers, manufacturers, etc. to apply for eligibility to become suppliers for services (printing and execution of creative works, etc.) and materials (promo materials and collaterals).

Prospective suppliers should have the experience in supplying similar requirements of other pharmaceutical companies and the likes, has the required equipment, capability and manpower to handle bulk orders. Only direct producers and/or importers will be accepted. Agents will not be entertained.

Company profiles of suppliers must be submitted on or before 25 January 2005 at:

DKT Philippines, Inc.
Suite 801, The Linden Suites,
37 San Miguel Ave., Ortigas, Pasig.
Attn: MS. OLIVE BARCELONA
Operations Assistant

(PDI-Jan 9, 2005)

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22 2

SUERTRES
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SIX DIGIT
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(In exact order)

6/42 Luzon/Vis-Min
1 3 10 31 33 39

SWEEPSTAKES
2 5 8 5 1 2 P

WPD top dog sniffs his way to greatness

By Leila B. Salaverria

SMART as a dog can be, Tiger poses for the cameras after getting his special award trophy during the 104th anniversary of the Western Police District yesterday. RAFFY LERMA

THIS member of the Western Police District (WPD) smartly walked up the stage, shook the hands of the mayor and proudly stood at attention as he received a round of hearty applause—and it did not matter that he was a dog.

Tiger, a 40-kilo, 10-year-old Dutch Shepherd was given a special award during the WPD's 104th anniversary celebration yesterday for his key role in the fight against drug trafficking and terrorism.

As a member of the K-9 unit of the WPD's explosives and ordnance division, Tiger detected the bomb planted outside the Commission on Elections office in Manila last year and another left on a passenger bus in Quiapo on Christmas Eve.

Busy as a dog should be

Tiger has also checked out hundreds of suspicious packages and regularly patrols the crowded areas of Manila like the Baywalk, LRT stations, Plaza Lacson, Rizal Avenue and Liwasang Bonifacio. He and five other dogs from Barrameda's Caninus Training Services International have been with the WPD since 2003.

"This is the first time we gave an award to a K-9 operative. Tiger has performed well and he has helped Manila a lot," said WPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong.

Also given an award was his handler Ronnie Rodolfo Docog, who is one of only three people whom Tiger will obey. The other two are his owner and trainer Lito Barrameda and the latter's son.

According to Barrameda, Tiger comes from a rare breed, the Dutch Shepherd. Only a few of these are bred every year and, as far as he knew, none are sold in the Philippines.

Wolf-like

Dutch Shepherds, he added, exhibit very wolf-like qualities like aggressiveness and bravery that make them ideal bomb- and drug-sniffing dogs.

"The more aggressive the dog, the better he will be at bomb detection," said Barrameda.

A bomb-sniffing dog is trained for six months and is taught to identify seven major scents of a bomb and its possible combinations, Barrameda said. The dog is also trained not to bark while examining the bomb or package and not to touch or move it.

"This is because some bombs are triggered by noise or movement, which is why the dog must only sit by the package when he detects the scent of explosives," he explained.

A doctorate

Barrameda said bomb sniffing was one of the more difficult forms of training a dog could undergo, adding that it was the equivalent of a doctorate degree for people.

Bomb-sniffing dogs are very important because they alert experts to what is dangerous.

Should a dog fail to detect explosives in a package, it could cause the death of anyone handling the package.

Barrameda said that while Dutch Shepherds were aggressive, these could be trained to attack only if commanded or if these felt threatened.

Trained Dutch Shepherds like Tiger will not bite or bark at people, the dog-trainer added.

Tiger showed no stage fright when he went up the stage to receive his award and pose for pictures with officials.

An actor, too

How could he, said Barrameda, when Tiger is a TV, movie and even a stage actor?

Aside from his law enforcement career, Tiger is also a performer, who has participated in 47 movies, numerous TV commercials and shows, and a Repertory Philippines play.

Tiger played the dog Sandy in the 1998 staging of the musical "Annie." Barrameda said he was very proud of this accomplishment because there were no take twos on stage plays, and Tiger never wavered from his role.

So impressive was his performance that even former President Corazon Aquino became a fan, said Barrameda.

In his performances, Barrameda boasted, Tiger had been a "take-one" talent, unlike actors he had worked with.

Tiger also starred in the movie "My First Romance," where his character was voiced by comedian John Lapus. He also played Piolo Pascual's dog in a TV commercial for a cell phone company. A Japanese film also had Tiger as one of its talents.

But for all these accomplishments, Tiger is also considered a member of the Barrameda family along with 39 other dogs. He has his chores, like going to market with Barrameda where his task is to carry the basket.

"Tiger is part of the family. He and the other dogs we have are some of my son's closest friends," said Barrameda, who admitted to a real fondness for dogs.

In fact, Barrameda left his job as a bank appraiser in 1992 to go full time into dog training with three foreign partners.

Currently, his company supplies bomb and drug sniffing dogs to seven embassies, shopping malls, bank buildings and offices of international organizations.

In 2003, he learned that the WPD had a problem with its dogs and he decided to lend the services of Tiger and five of his other dogs for free to the WPD for a whole year. The next year, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza awarded him a contract.

"I decided to give the services for free because I am from Manila and with all the bombings and terrorist threats, I wanted to do my share to help Manila," he said.

And Barrameda was not disappointed because Tiger has performed excellently in keeping the city safe, as his award shows.

Caloocan City revives council for children

TO FURTHER protect and boost the welfare of children in Caloocan City, Mayor Enrico Echiverri revived the City Council for the Protection of Children (CCPC), saying the government should give importance to the youth, including the exploited and abused.

"It is only right that we invest in their future," the mayor said.

Echiverri said the establishment of the council was mandated by Republic Act 7610, or the Special Protection against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act.

The CCPC is tasked to make and recommend plans, programs and policies for the well-being of the city's children aged zero to 17.

The mayor will lead the council, assisted by Councilors Nora Nubla and Ma. Milagros Mercado.

Tina G. Santos

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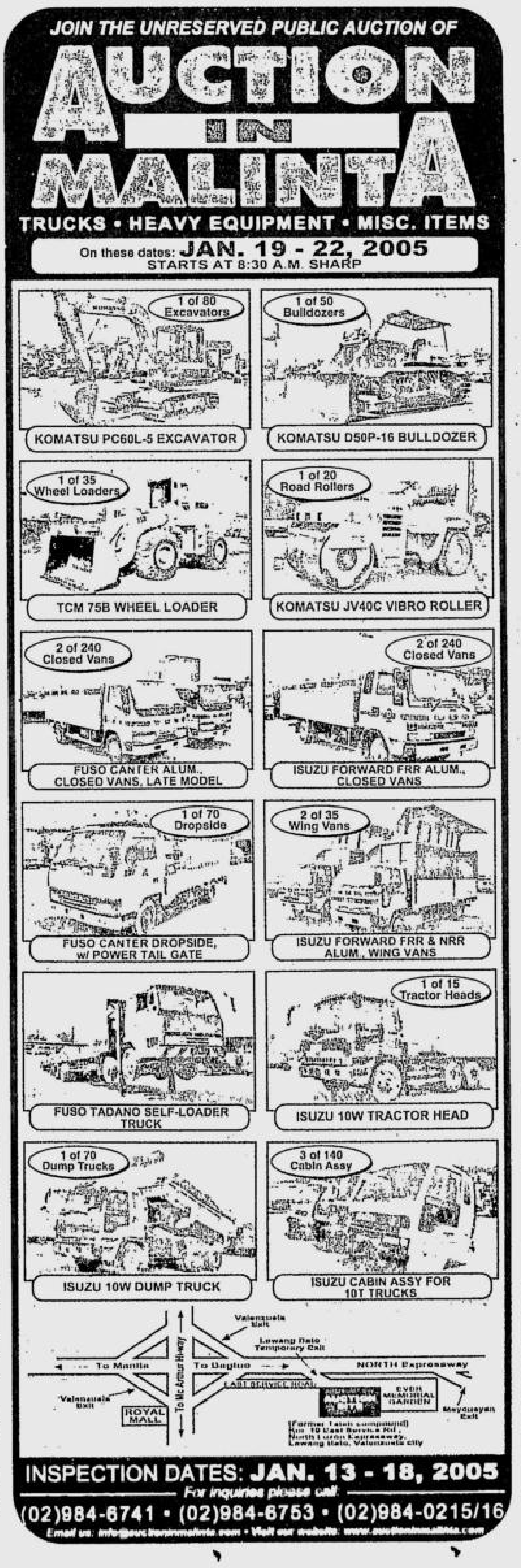

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Nazareno: A savior they can relate to

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE HARD times are expected to draw more people to today's feast of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo, in veneration of an image of Jesus Christ suffering to save mankind.

Thousands of barefoot men brave the restless crowd in this annual showcase of Catholic devotion apparently because they could relate to the mulatto Christ brought to his knees by a heavy cross, his head bleeding from a crown of thorns.

"There is not much difference every year, except that more people come here, I think because life is getting harder, and they would like to ask for blessings from the Nazareno," said Desiderio Salvador, president of the Comite de Festejos.

For the last 16 years, Salvador has led the 79-year-old organization of Quiapo parishioners who organize activities for the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, Manila's parish simply known as the Quiapo Church.

January is the Comite's busiest month because it prepares for the biggest parish event, the feast of the Black Nazarene.

Since 1936, when the Comite was just a decade old, participation in the annual commemoration and procession has swelled up to its present organized chaos.

Year after year, Salvador, 58, has seen a constant growth in the multitude of his fellow devotees that gather in and around the church, and fill Quiapo's streets and sidewalks to accompany the Black Nazarene in his once-a-year procession around the district.

In today's celebration, said Salvador, at least 800,000 devotees are expected to join the procession, more than a third of them to be compressed near the church and the quadrangle fronting it, Plaza Miranda.

Following tradition, only the men would be allowed to join the homogenous core of white-clad devotees, crammed closest to the Nazareno.

For their safety, women devotees are advised to stay on the fringes of the procession.

"There is really no theme, but if there was, I guess it would be unity in times of struggle," said Salvador in an interview inside the Comite's office beneath the plaza's stage.

The chaotic feast day procession has been celebrated every 9th of January. Its sheer magnitude had even worn out the original life-size image of the Black Nazarene, crafted by an unknown Mexican sculptor in the early 17th century and brought to Manila via a galleon by a nameless Recollect priest, according to sketchy historical accounts.

What has been parading through the sea of devotees every year since 1987 is a hybrid of the original and a local replica: The Nazarene's head, by Filipino sculptor Gener Manlaqui, tops the original centuries-old and now cracked body of the image, armored by stainless steel as a shield from further damage.

The original head is preserved crowning the rest of Manlaqui's faithful copy inside Quiapo Church.

"They come here to ask for graces from the Black Nazarene, to help them lift their own life's burdens," said Salvador.

For devotee Teodorico Ballado, his yearly intrepid vow of joining the frantic procession of the Black Nazarene has meant thanksgiving for his life which, though not well-endowed, has remained bearable.

"I do not wish for anything material, for great wealth. I just ask him to keep me and my children healthy and safe," said Ballado, a father of two whose devotion to the Black Nazarene began 19 years ago.

QC housing for workers rising up

By Tina G. Santos

SOON, a home of their own.

The Quezon City government has begun a low-cost housing project to benefit its low-income employees who still do not own their homes.

Two medium-rise buildings are currently being built on a 4,777-square meter lot in Barangay Vasra, near Visayas Avenue.

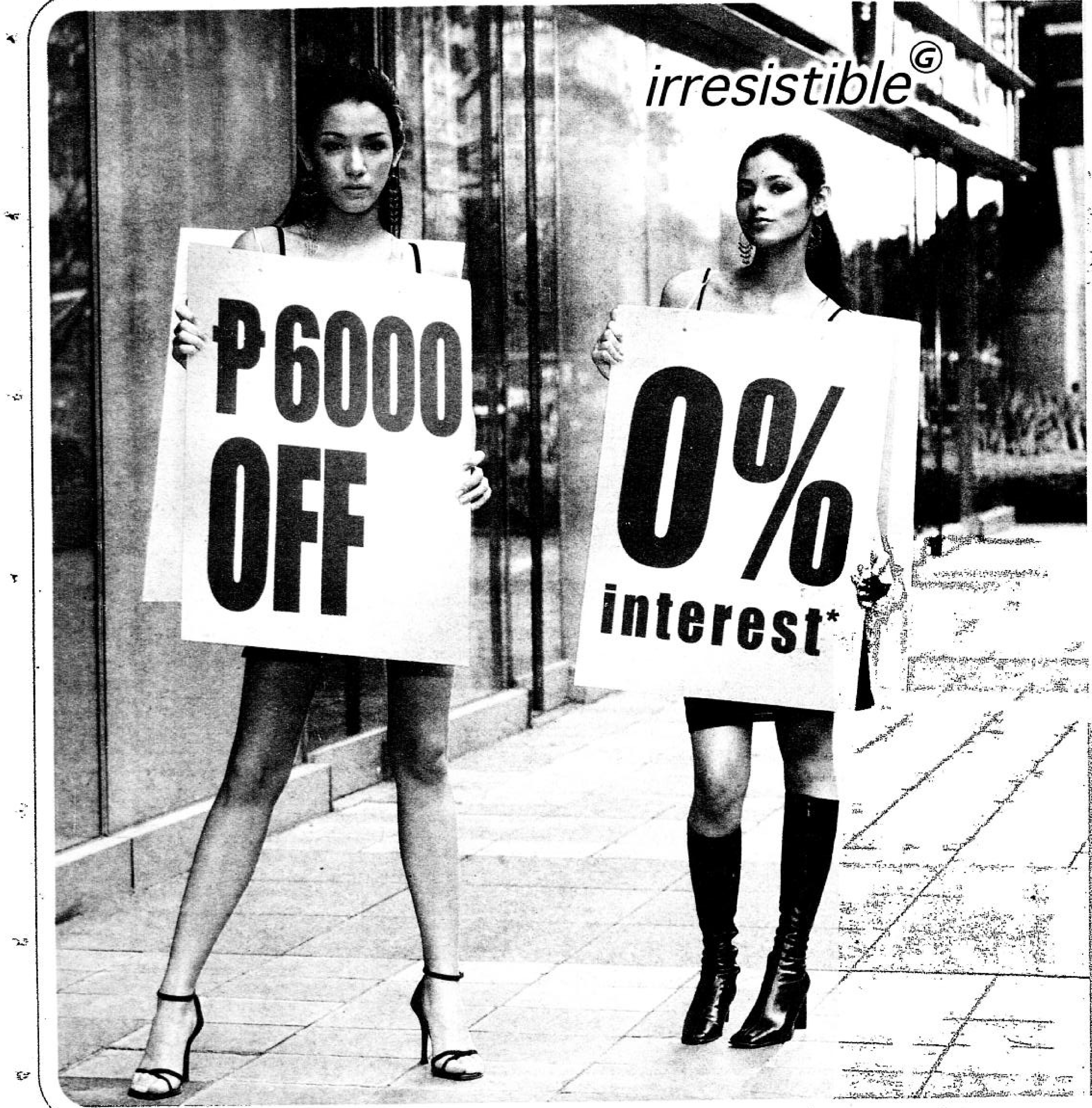
The project, called Hura Homes II, is being developed by the Housing and Urban Renewal Authority, a corporation owned by the city government tasked to provide low-cost housing to the city's informal dwellers and poor government employees.

A total of 320 city employees are expected to benefit from the P72-million project.

Each unit on Hura II will measure 21 sqm and have its own toilet and bath, kitchen and individual electric meter.

Initial estimates show that each unit will cost from P260,000 to P350,000.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte has called on city hall employees who do not yet own a house to take advantage of the project.



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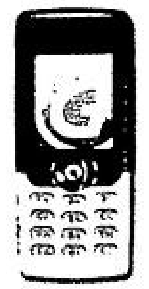
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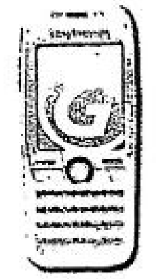
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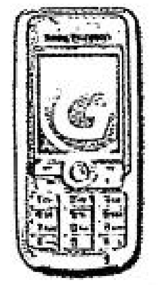
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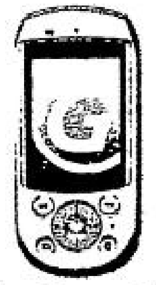
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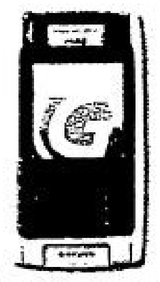
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SPORTS TV Compiled by L. Manguiat

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL–NFC Wildcard Game; 9 a.m.; ESPN and Sports Plus (r-9 p.m.)–See who moves on closer to the Super Bowl.

BASKETBALL: NBA–Timberwolves vs Wizards; 8 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Nuggets vs Spurs; 12 noon (r-5:30 p.m.); Solar Sports–Minnesota battles Washington while Denver takes on San Antonio.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

FEU loses coach, wins over ICTSI

Tortillos gain twice-to-beat advantage

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE BIG news reverberated at the PBL Open Championship yesterday, overshadowing a big win by Magnolia-FEU.

Koy Banal won't be back as head coach of the Far Eastern University in this year's UAAP season, but that didn't stop him from steering the Wizards to their eighth straight win, a 72-60 drubbing of collegiate rival ICTSI-La Salle.

Sources within the FEU athletic department said Banal was asked to step down due to his schedule, which includes sitting as assistant coach of Purefoods in the PBA.

The same sources revealed that Banal, who steered FEU to the 2003 UAAP title and the 2004 PBL Unity Cup championship, was offered a consultant's job, but he turned it down.

GAMES TUESDAY
(*Pasig Sports Center*)
2 p.m.—Air Philippines vs Welcoat
4 p.m.—Montaña vs AMP-Ateneo

Former FEU and Purefoods player Glenn Capacio and former FEU assistant coach Robert Flores are being considered as possible replacements.

If, indeed, this is Banal's final stint as FEU coach, he is winding up his job in a stylish manner.

"It's a good thing we were able to make a turnaround," said Banal, who appeared downcast despite the Wizards' latest victory. "In the first two quarters, we weren't working as a team offensively and defensively. There was so much pressure because we were playing in our homecourt."

Mark Isip and Jason Misolas led the Wizards' balanced attack with 10 points apiece.

In the second game, swingman Jett Latonio nailed a three-pointer in the final 6.3 seconds to lift Granny Goose Tortillos past Toyota Otis-Letran, 69-67.

"I gave license to Latonio to take a shot if he's free," said coach Jun Tan, whose Tortillos became the first of two teams to clinch the twice-to-beat advantage in the quarterfinals.

Hefty rookie JR Quiñahan delivered a monster performance with 23 points and 16 rebounds to power the Tortillos' come-from-behind victory.

"*Bumabawi lang kami* this January because we didn't win a game the whole December," added Tan after the Tortillos improved their record to 8-5.

After Latonio's trey, Tortillos playmaker Marvin Cruz stole off Boyet Bautista in the dying seconds to preserve the victory.

The Knights and the Archers fell to 5-8, putting their quarterfinal bid in peril.

The Wizards remained within striking distance at 43-38 but outscored the Archers 12-5 for a 55-43 buffer by the end of the third quarter.

The defending champions then maintained their strong shooting performance to build their biggest lead, 66-48, halfway in the final quarter.

With the 6-foot-6 Quiñahan dominating the paint, the Tortillos drew within a point, 48-47, after trailing 41-29 early in the third quarter.

But the Knights zoomed again to a 67-58 advantage midway in the final quarter. Granny Goose then unloaded eight unanswered points capped by a VJ Santos triple to pull within 67-66, 1:23 minutes left.

The scores:

First game

GRANNY GOOSE 69—Quiñahan 23, Latonio 11, A. Santos 10, Grijaldo 6, V. Santos 5, Almeda 4, Ibañes 3, Lanete 3, Cruz 2, David 2, Concha 0, Larong 0, Capati 0, Cervantes 0.

TOYOTA OTIS-LETRAN 67—Macapagal 15, Enrile 14, Aban 8, Dula 5, Coronel 5, Daa 4, Piñera 4, Andaya 2, Abadia 2, Aldave 0.

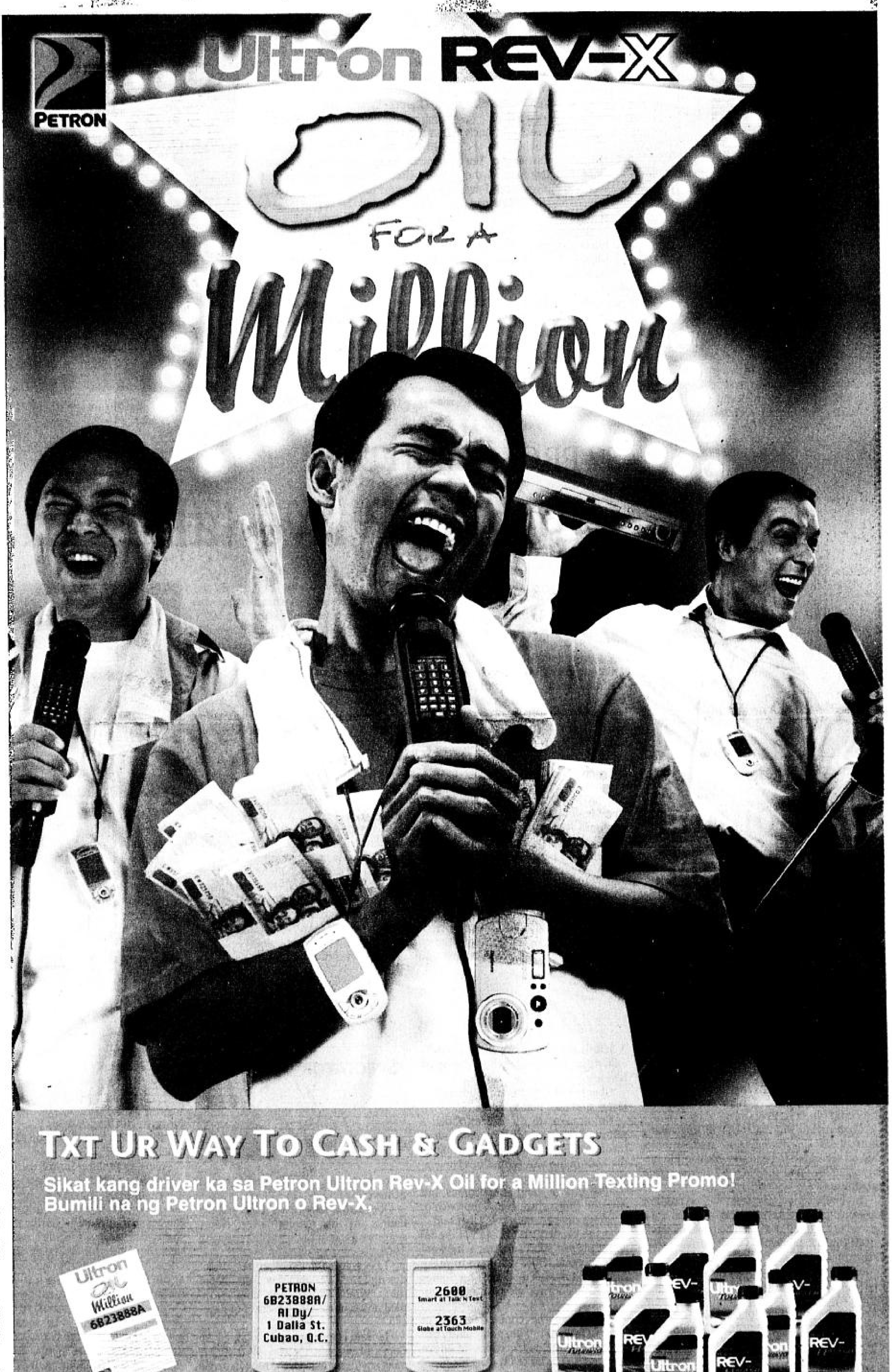
Quarters: 10-16, 27-34, 49-56, 69-67.

Second game

MAGNOLIA-FEU 72—Isip 10, Misolas 10, Miranda 9, Catli 9, Rizada 8, Ybañez 7, Chan 6, Santos 5, Co 4, Jones 2, Raneses 2, Yabut 0, Razon 0.

ICTSI-LA SALLE 60—Cardona 28, Yeo 14, Araña 7, Gaco 4, Cua 3, Aquino 2, Casio 2, Tang 0, Cabatu 0, Gavino 0, Gatchalian 0.

Quarters: 25-17, 39-36, 55-43, 72-60.



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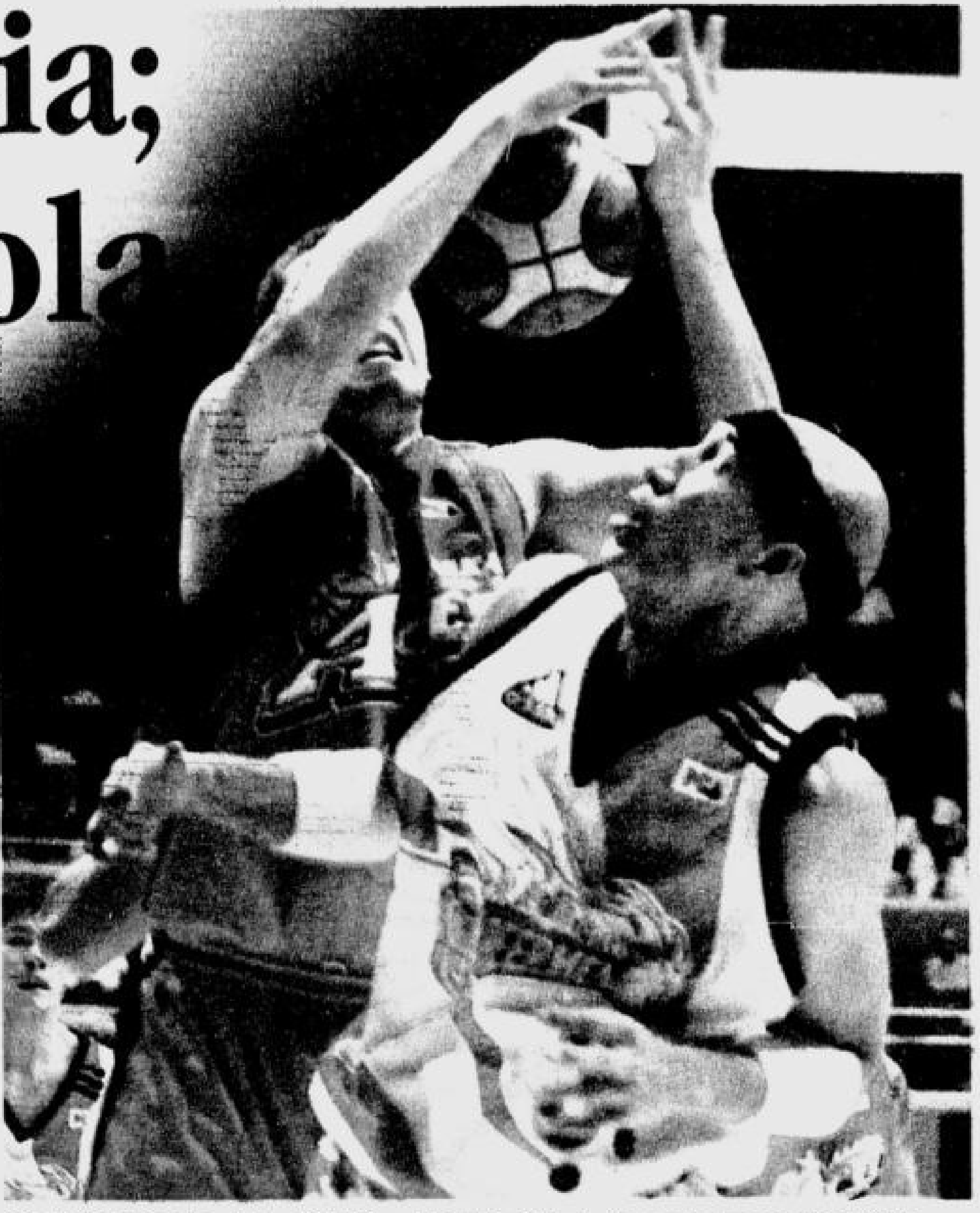
SMB faces Sta. Lucia; P'foods vs Coca-Cola

Best-of-3 Philippine Cup playoffs


NIC BELASCO of San Miguel (right) and EJ Feihl of Alaska dispute ball possession in their game won by Alaska.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

THE WILDCARD phase of the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup starts today with a twinbill featuring best-of-three affairs at the Araneta Coliseum.

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:10 p.m.—SMB vs Sta. Lucia
6:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs Coke

With the odds just about even, fifth-ranked San Miguel Beer collides with the eighth-seeded Sta. Lucia Realty at 4:10 p.m. before Purefoods (sixth) and Coca-Cola (seventh) collide at 6:30.

In the other wildcard pairing, Shell, which landed third after the elimination round, and Alaska, which ended up fourth, will enjoy a twice-to-beat advantage against Red Bull Barako and FedEx.

Sta. Lucia Realty, FedEx and Red Bull finished with identical 6-12 records but the Realtors wound up with a superior quotient, leaving the Express and the Barako tied for the last two seats.

Alaska, San Miguel Beer and Purefoods also ended up tied at 9-9 but a different tie-breaker was applied this time.

The Aces went on to beat the Beermen in a one-game playoff for fourth after the TJ Hotdogs settled for the sixth seeding due to an inferior quotient.

Sta. Lucia Realty coach Alfrancis Chua was hoping to be ranged against coach Tim Cone and the Aces in the wildcard but got coach Jong Uichico and the Beermen instead.

"I must admit that between Alaska and San Miguel Beer, Alaska will pose less problems for us," said Chua.

"But since it's San Miguel, we will just try to match up with them and get the job done," he added.

As far as match-ups are concerned, the Beermen have a more versatile backcourt and a deeper bench.

Olsen Racela, Dondon Hontiveros, Danny Seigle and Dale Singson have the slight edge over the Kenneth Duremdes-powered wingmen of the Realtors.

Sta. Lucia, however, will have the advantage up front, where Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espino are expected to dominate Nic Belasco, Dorian Peña and Danny Ildefonso.

In the other game, the Tigers will lean more on playoff experience, while the TJ Hotdogs hope to get their run-and-gun game going.

Coca-Cola will be without coach Chot Reyes, who will now dedicate his time forming the country's national team.

The survivor of the San Miguel-Sta. Lucia Realty series advances to the quarterfinals and meets either Alaska or FedEx in a best-of-three encounter. The winner of the Hotdogs-Tigers duel will be pitted against the winner of the Shell-Red Bull Barako clash.

The quarterfinal winners will join the top-seeded Barangay Ginebra Kings and the No. 2 Talk 'N Text Phone Pals in the best-of-five semifinals. *June Navarro*

32 PROS, AMATEURS

Chot's RP five takes shape today

By June Navarro

THE PLAYERS on the wish list of Philippine men's basketball coach Vincent "Chot" Reyes will be known today.

Reyes will announce the 32 PBA and amateur players of his choice at the halftime break of the first wildcard best-of-three series between Sta. Lucia Realty and San Miguel Beer in the ongoing Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Coca-Cola mentor, who took a leave from his mother ballclub, has earlier named Jayjay Helterbrand, Willie Miller, Tony Dela Cruz, Nic Belasco and Eric Menk to the first five of the national team.

He also mentioned Jimmy Alapag, Brandon Cablay, Junthy Valenzuela, Lordy Tugade, Kenneth Duremdes, Dennis Espino, Mark Telan, Billy Mamaril, Yancy De Ocampo and Sonny Thoss as among the possible role players and support group to the starters.

Renren Ritualo, Danny Seigle, Enrico Villanueva, Ali Peek, Marc Pingris and Rafi Reavis were also included in the tentative roster of what Reyes said would be a young and talented squad.

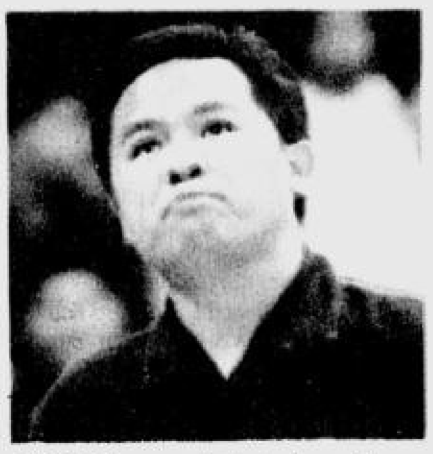
"In my mind, I don't think a tryout is necessary. Once chosen, they will be interviewed and screened to determine the extent of their commitment to the national team," said Reyes.

The selection procedure actually veers away from the common practice of holding an open tryouts for PBA players aspiring to be part of the national team. It was done in the past four Asian Games that the PBA handled.

"I know how these players play. It's just a matter of putting the right players who could play as a cohesive team," said Reyes, stressing that pooling together a bunch of superstars for the national team is no longer effective.

He cited the United States basketball team composed of NBA stars who were humiliated by Argentina and other fast-rising basketball countries in the Athens Olympics last year.

Reyes also included at least four amateur players in his initial list. They are Ateneo's LA Tenorio, La Salle's Mac Cardona, Arwind Santos of FEU and Welcoat's Anthony Washington.


REYES: Young and talented squad.

"There's a very slim chance amateurs will make the final lineup. But I want them to continue playing just the same. This is a long program and you never know (what will happen)," said Reyes.

The national pool, to be composed of 18 pro dribblers and six amateurs to be identified within the month, will start its training sessions on Feb. 1.

There are also other notable PBA players Reyes failed to include in the tentative roster that could be given a second look.

Coca-Cola's John Arigo has expressed zeal in joining the team. Alaska's Mike Cortez and Jeffrey Cariaso have been churning out outstanding games, while Marc Caguioa and Romel Adducul have been explosive lately.

Kerby Raymundo of Purefoods and San Miguel Beer's Olsen Racela, Dondon Hontiveros and two-time MVP Danny Ildefonso could also add depth to the national team bound to compete in the Asian championships in September.

"Let us not forget that coach Chot (Reyes) based his choice on the performance of the players in the ongoing PBA tournament," said PBA Commissioner Noli Eala.

"In essence, this conference is already the tryouts for the national team itself," he added.

ANTONIO: I'll do my best.

Joey joining world meet in Montreal

BACK-TO-BACK Thailand Open (2003-04) champion Filipino GM Rogelio "Joey" Antonio Jr. will compete in the Montreal World Chess Tournament slated Jan. 15-22 at the Saint-Laurent Recreation Center in Montreal, Canada.

The Calapan, Oriental Mindoro native, who'll turn 43 next month, will join nine other invited players from the United States, Russia, Israel, France and host Canada in the nine-round closed tournament sanctioned by the World Chess Federation.

"*Gagawin ko ang* best *ko, ito ang unang* tournament *ko sa taong ito*," said Antonio, ranked second in the country with an Elo rating of 2539, good for No. 352 in the world rankings.

The InnDe's MonRoi system will be used for electronic chess score recording and real-time, instead of the traditional pen and paper method.

GM Dmitry Jakovenko (Elo 2596) of Russia is the top seed in the tournament.

Also seeing action are GM Alexander Igor-Nataf (Elo 2557) of France, GM Victor Mikhalevski (Elo 2553) of Israel, GM Alexander Lesiege (Elo 2558) of Canada, GM John Fedorowitcz (Elo 2507) of the United States, GM Eugene Perelshteyn (Elo 2505) of the United States, GM Arnaud Hauchard (Elo 2487) of France, Montreal's 16-year-old IM Thomas Roussel-Roozon (Elo 2425) of Canada and 18-year-old IM Eric Lawson (Elo 2373) of Canada. *NM Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Obet

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

A JOB is difficult if you think it's difficult. It becomes easy when you think it's easy.

Obet Pagdanganan, of Calumpit, Bulacan, practices that by heart.

No stranger to difficulties, Obet, a self-made man who supported himself through college at MLQU, is the man of the hour in the SEA Games this November.

"The task at hand is enormous, but with the right attitude and approach to it, things can become easy," Obet said.

As the country's point man in the region's biggest sports spectacle held every two years, Obet will have to make sure no major kink mars the SEA Games before and during the two-week competitions.

"Gladly, all the committees are in place," Obet said. "I am particularly impressed by the work ethics of Steve (Hontiveros), who really puts his heart to every detail in regard to the preparation for the Games."

His track record of governance unassailed by even his perceived foes, Obet has made a name as a tireless worker, who does not stop till perfection is achieved.

Obet said a major twist changed the course of his career after Ninoy Aquino's assassination at the tarmac in 1983.

"I became an active Namfrel officer during the 1986 snap elections," Obet said. "When Marcos was finally toppled, I was made OIC governor of Bulacan."

He said he reluctantly obliged to Cory's proddings. He was 39 then, almost a whisker away from the top of the corporate ladder.

"I was aiming for the CEO post at Unilever when politics beckoned," said Obet. "When I left Unilever, my friends said, 'You are a fool to join the government. Your future is ruined.' I ignored them. I followed my heart."

Today, he says he has never made a better decision in his life.

After his OIC stint as governor of Bulacan, he ran for governor.

"To my surprise, I was unopposed," Obet said.

As his legacy after finishing the maximum three-term tenure as governor for a total of 12 years stay at the capitol, Obet has turned Bulacan into a boom town north of Manila. Easily, he got a slot in the administration's senatorial ticket but lost the last berth to Tessie Oreta by placing 13th in his first crack at the Senate in 1998. He lost anew in his next try at the Senate in 2004.

"I guess, I am not destined to become senator," said Obet, who soon found himself being named to two Cabinet positions, the last one as Tourism secretary.

Following his appointment as the big boss of the SEA Games Organizing Committee, Obet became concurrently president and chair of the Philippine International Trading Corporation. And, despite his brain-wracking job in the SEA Games, he still manages to work wonders at PITC.

"Modesty aside, we have consistently lowered the prices of medicines nationwide," said Obet. "I'm glad the big players are cooperating."

The SEA Games budget has been originally pegged at P1 billion. It is now down to P800 million.

"In the best interest of government, we will not stop until we reach the lowest budget for the Games," Obet said. "Despite the bad times, our friends from the corporate world have not really deserted us. Truth to tell, Vietnam spent $100 per athlete in 2003. Today, we are looking at a $30-per-athlete budget for the 2005 Games. We also intend to have a plus sign at the end of the event."

It's a gargantuan job Obet is facing. But a tested fellow that he is, with a huge marketing background backing up his name, Obet, 58, is heavily touted to hurdle this biggest challenge thus far in his life.

"I've never run away from a fight," he said. "This one is tough. I like it best when the going gets tough."

Unrated active chess gets going

THE METROPOLITAN Chess Club (MCC) Unrated active chess starts at 10 a.m. today at the club's headquarters at the J&F Divino Bldg., 967 Aurora Blvd., near LRT 2 Anonas station, Quezon City.

The event offers a total pot of P10,000, with the champion getting P3,000. Early entries are Jan Nigel Galan, Vernon Lisboa, Jan Emmanuel Garcia, Vernon Lisboa and Haridas Pascua. Interested parties may call MCC at 435-8412 and 0916-852-1069. *NM Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

SURF CHAMP: Pablo Paulino of Brazil shows the form that clinched for him the 2005 Billabong World Junior Championships title in Sydney on Saturday.

Battle Royale to showcase Gabi-Chipattana showdown

THE PHILIPPINE'S newest boxing program, Battle Royale, will showcase two of the most exciting bouts ever.

An adrenaline-pumping 10-round fight between Kidapawan's Diosdado "The Prince" Gabi and Thai Thepnimit sor Chipattana will be aired over NBN 4 at 8 p.m. today.

This fight is said to be one of Prince Gabi's best fights in his six-year boxing career. Gabi is now preparing for a crack at the featherweight title either in the WBO, IBF or WBC.

He is also being watched out by Filipinos in the US as the best contender against Brian Villoria. Villoria is a Filipino by birth but is now an American citizen who played for the US at the Sydney Olympics.

The bout between Rey Martizano of Antipas, North Cotabato and Ayon Naranjo would also be featured.

Smart RP Ladies pits teen stars

IT'S GOING to be a war of teen aces when the Smart Philippine Ladies Amateur Open golf championship fires off next week at the Manila Golf Club course.

This year's edition features one of the youngest fields ever in the history of the national ladies championship with at least 20 junior players joining the hunt for the crown starting Thursday, Jan. 12.

And most of them are high up in the list of favorites.

Foremost among the youthful entries are defending champion Frances Bondad, a 17-year-old American-Australian with Filipino parents, 18-year-old local jungolf star Jayvie Agojo and 17-year-old Thai Nontaya Srisawang, considered as one of the best amateurs in Asia at the moment.

At the close of registry, there were 80 players in the roster, including 19 from seven nations. Five are members of Singapore's national team, three come from Australia and Thailand, two each from Malaysia, Hong Kong, Korea and the United States.

According to Nancy Ortiga, president of the organizing Women's Golf Association of the Philippines, 31 of the participants are single-digit handicappers which is a record high for the annual tourney given major backing by telecommunications giant Smart Communications.

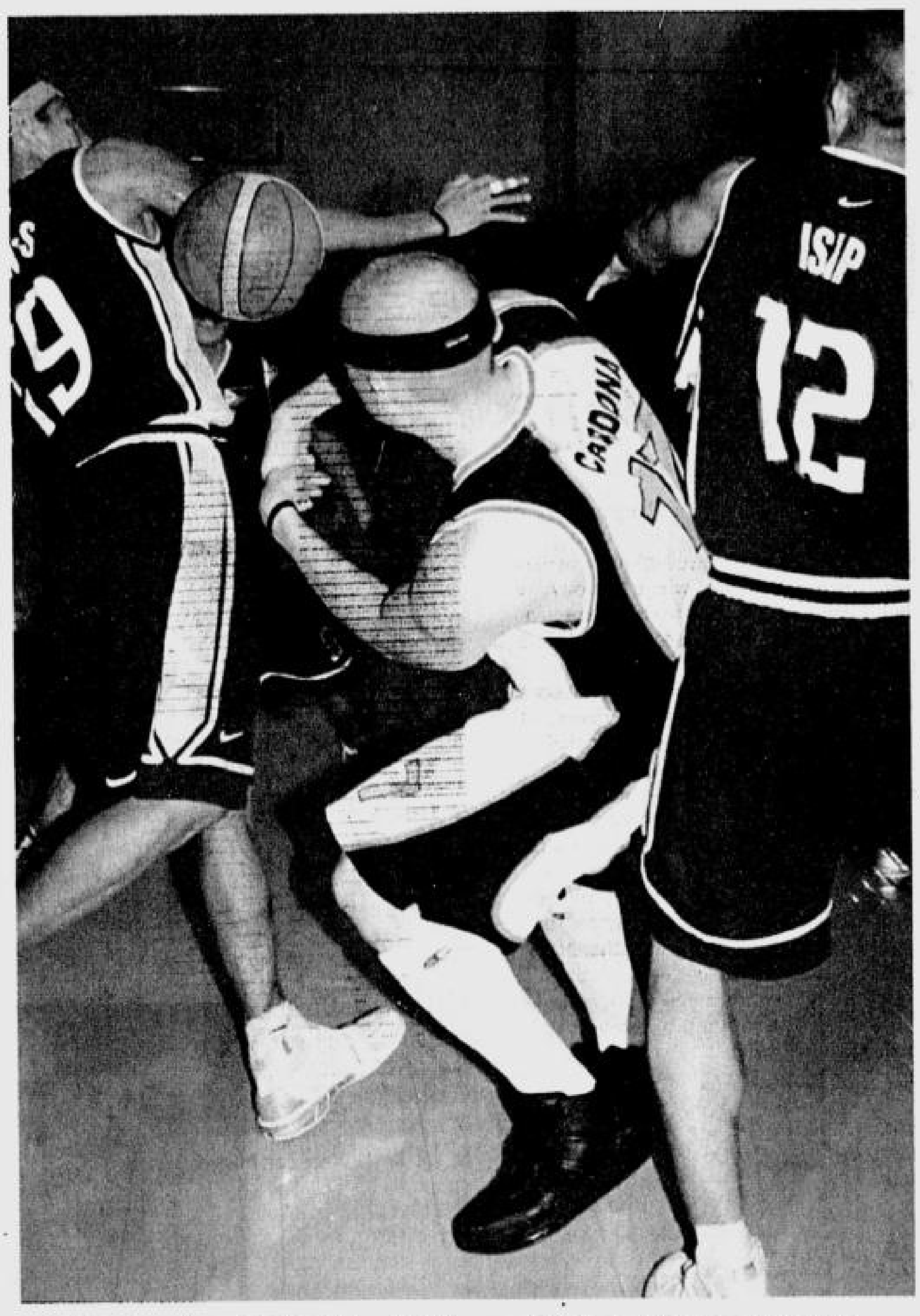
"We're in for a very exciting competition with such a big number of young and talented players participating," said Ortiga. "This, I believe, is a good indication that more and more girls are playing the game in the region."

Jenny Rosales, now an LPGA star and the event's only five-time champion, has been invited to lead the hitting of the ceremonial balls on Wednesday.

The First Gentleman Foundation and Herma Group and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office are the major sponsors. Hole sponsors are Pacific Online, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), Park Lane Jewellers, PacSports, Bank of Commerce, INQUIRER Golf, Dunkin Donuts, Mega Magazine, Callaway, All Transport Network, Crucible Gallery, Key Stone Lamps and Sentry. The hole-in-one sponsors are Gucci and Baume&Mercier Timepieces.

Looming as potential threats are the two Koreans, 2-handicapper Woo Ji Yeon and 4-handicapper Woo Yoiung Kyung, who are top students of the Hau Golf School in Bulacan.

The local jungolf army challenging the fancied names includes Geleen Handog, Debbie de Villa, Crystal Superal, Cyna Rodriguez, Ma-an Legaspi, Regine de Guzman and Cristina Potenciano.



MARC Cardona (center) of ICTSI loses his balance against Arwind Santos and Mark Isip of Magnolia in their PBL game at the FEU gym yesterday. ***Story on A19***

RUDY ESPERAS

It's Baguio, not Clark, for RP bets

By Marc Anthony Reyes

INSTEAD OF a new national training center in Clark Field, Pampanga, Philippine Olympic Committee president Peping Cojuangco will concentrate his efforts to improving the government-owned sports facilities in Baguio City.

This developed after a recent request by President Macapagal-Arroyo that the national athletes' home be transferred from the 70-year-old Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Manila to the existing sports complex inside Teachers Camp in the country's summer capital.

"I will have to coordinate with (Philippine Sports Commission officer-in-charge) Butch Ramirez regarding this and explore the possibilities of how to improve the facilities there in Baguio," said Cojuangco yesterday.

Right now, only the national track and field and wrestling athletes are housed in the Baguio City complex, which suits Cojuangco's preference for an ideal training site for the national athletes far from the crowded RMSC and Philsports in Pasig.

However, PSC officials said a lot of improvements have to be done in the Baguio City facility before it can accommodate the more than 500 national athletes to be trained there for the coming SEA Games in November.

Southeast Asian Games multiple gold medalists Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito and Arneil Ferreira had complained of their deteriorating Baguio quarters late last year.

They said screens are needed on the windows and doors to repel mosquitoes. They also complained of the lack of dryer for their clothes because drying their training uniforms takes time due to the cold and damp weather.

Cojuangco said Baguio would be an ideal place to establish the national training center because of its high altitude and isolated location.

President Arroyo had installed the national athletes on top of the agenda of the sports leaders during her meeting with them last week.

Ramirez promised to increase the national athletes' daily P250 food allowance and give them a fresh set of training uniforms.

First Gent, Pagcor heed caddies' call

FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo and the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. heeded the call of the 2005 National Caddies' Open (NCO) with pledges of hefty support for the event that is the first of its kind anywhere in the world.

"Maybe we can find the next Ben Arda from within the (caddies') ranks," Arroyo, also the chair of the FG Sports Foundation, told tournament chairmen Ben Abalos and Hermie Esguerra.

Chair Efren Genuino also guaranteed Pagcor's support for the 72-hole event slated in Calatagan, Canlubang North and Wack Wack East on Feb. 1-4.

Along with executive director Antonio Arevalo and tournament director Tommy Manotoc, the NCO has decided to name the trophies after former caddies who made it big here and abroad.

The group has invited Frankie Miñoza, who once carried bags at Del Monte before becoming the country's foremost pro, and Arda to grace the event.

"We want the caddies to know that they can still change their fortunes," Esguerra, the champion race horseowner said.

Golf clubs can coordinate with the Calatagan office of the tournament through Dave Hernandez at 0917-8425275, 0917-8425257 or fax number 0919-5470619. Questions can also be e-mailed to the nationalcaddiesopen@yahoo.com.

The deadline for submission of nomination forms is on Jan. 18. The forms may be faxed at 723-8556 or 0919- 5470619 or sent by courier to the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, c/o the office of the club president and to the Calatagan Golf Club in Batangas.

DON BOSCO CAGEFEST: The Don Bosco Mandaluyong Alumni Association launched recently the Don Solaroli Alumni Basketball Cup in honor of Fr. Miguel Solaroli (about to throw the ceremonial jump ball). The tournament was hosted by this year's silver jubilarians DBTC HS Batch 1980. The Grand Alumni Homecoming has been set Jan. 29. All Batch 80 members may call Rei Oriola at 0918-9132515 or 744-2611 or Joey Ocampo at 531-6222/88.

Luat beats Parica, joins Reyes in winners' bracket

RODOLFO "Boy Samson" Luat beat US-based Jose "Amang" Parica, 11-7, in an all-Filipino showdown yesterday to join countryman Efren "Bata" Reyes and Santos Sambajon in the winners' bracket of the UPA Pro Tour Championships at the Bicycle Club in Bell Gardens California, USA.

The 47-year-old Angeles City-based Luat will next meet American Gabe Owen, who drubbed Danny Kuykendall, 11-2.

Reyes is scheduled to meet four-time World champion Johnny "The Scorpion" Archer of Atlanta, Georgia, USA at press time.

On the other hand, Quezon-born Sambajon of North Terrace, California, will slug it out against American Danny "Delicious" Basavich, who nipped Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 11-10.

Other matches pit Troy Frank against Rodney "Rockets" Morris, Tony Robles vs Mike Davis, Paul Potier vs Ralf "Kaiser" Souquet, defending champion Mika Immonen vs Frankie Hernandez and Corey Deuel against Charlie "The Korean Dragon" Williams.

Marlon Bernardino

Beach volley on TV today

GOLF Power today resumes its special feature on the Toyota Balintawak Women's Beach Volleyball Challenge with the elimination round match between University of Asia and the Pacific and College of St. Benilde 3 in the collegiate division.

The match was played recently at the beach volleyball court of the Cantada Sports Center in Taguig. Golf Power is aired every Sunday at 3 p.m. on RPN-9 and is followed by the popular boxing show Samsung's Fistorama at 4 p.m.

Today's boxing feature is the RP flyweight championship match between champion Jerry Pahayhay and challenger Federico Catubay held in Cagayan de Oro City last Monday.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA
BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Valiant Queen 2. Respect the Ace

Race 2—1. Suppressed 2. Lolita 3. Sir Golden Score 4. Imperial Palace

Race 3—1. I Remain 2. Dancing Slew 3. Daddy's Girl 4. Pay to Cash/Fasteller 5. Smooth Strike

Race 4—1. Ravishing Raffy 2. Sir Olizon 3. Bashful Lady

Race 5—1. Golden Africa 2. Diva 3. Pitong Bakod

Race 6—1. Open Sky 2. He's A Balong/Count Your Blessings 3. Playing Cool 4. Doctor Steve

Race 7—1. Silver Cho Cho 2. King Yoji 3. Native Prince

Race 8—1. Duces Tecum 2. Decidido 3. Lucky Strike 4. Ichiro

Race 9—1. Sugar Ray 2. Bukambibig 3. Hurry Prince 4. Shaolin 5. My Lucky One

Race 10—1. Ocean Wings 2. Rindo Maker 3. Queen of D Jungle 4. Mini Skirt

Race 11—1. Mano Po 2. Tenacity 3. Parrot Moe/All Powerful 4. Arbiter

Race 12—1. Thywillbedone 2. Sir Guguy 3. Hazit Coming 4. Manila Magic 5. Be My Pride

Race 13—1. Modern Spirit 2. Oliver Sun Joy 3. Yokozuna/Burst of Speed 4. Batang Westside 5. Silent Wind 6. Friendly Venture

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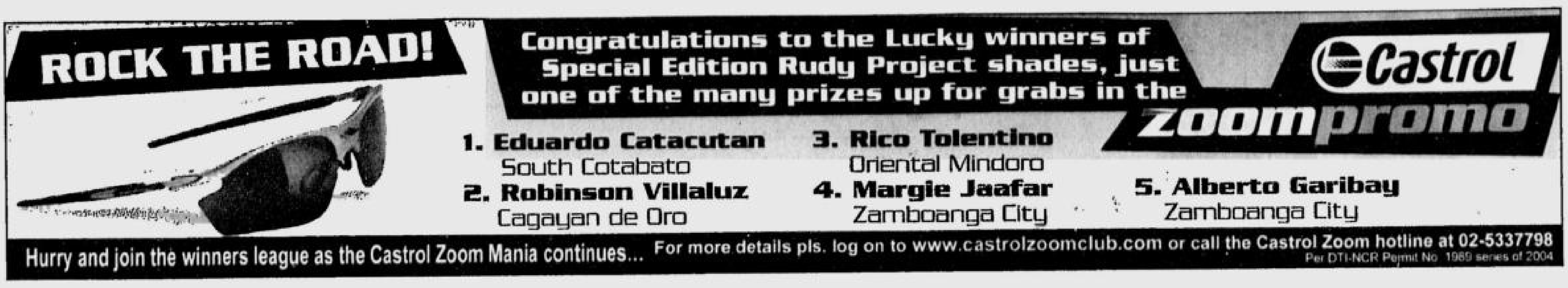
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Sporting world steps up tsunami aid drive

LOS ANGELES—Vijay Singh, the world number one golfer who hails from Fiji, said he will auction an automobile to benefit Asian tsunami relief, and the US PGA Tour said Friday they would match the proceeds as the US sports world's aid efforts continued.

Baseball stepped up to the plate on Friday with a joint donation of $1 million by Major League Baseball and the players' association.

Fund raising continued in the National Basketball Association also, as half a dozen more NBA players—including Lakers star Kobe Bryant—joined in the "shoot-a-thon" that saw them pledging $1,000 per point scored in games on Friday.

Singh, who was born in Fiji and is of Indian descent, said he would use the online auction site eBay to sell a vehicle which was part of his prize for winning last year's Buick Open.

He said he would donate the proceeds to UNICEF's tsunami relief effort, and the PGA Tour announced it would match the donation.

"My heart is from (Asia), so I feel for the people there," said Singh, whose wife, Ardena, is Malaysian.

In Los Angeles, Bryant and Houston's Tracy McGrady and Bob Sura totaled 73 points among them for a total donation of $73,000 dollars. Bryant scored 27 points in the Lakers' 111-104 victory over the Rockets, while McGrady scored 26 and Sura had 20 for Houston.

Also pledging were Pau Gasol and Mike Miller of the Memphis Grizzlies. Gasol scored 20 points and Miller added 16 in their 84-76 victory over New Orleans.

The Toronto Raptors' Jalen Rose had also pledged $1,000 dollars per point in Friday's game against Milwaukee. But he was dissatisfied with the 21 points he put up in Toronto's 107-105 overtime loss, so he upped his offer.

"I was hoping for a career night, so I am going to donate my career high which is 44," Rose said. "That will be $44,000, as opposed to what I did today."

Indiana's Jermaine O'Neal, who pledged $1,000 per point scored in Thursday's game in San Antonio, also decided his 32-point effort wasn't quite sufficient. Like Rose, O'Neal said he would instead base his donation on his career high of 55 points, which he scored against Milwaukee on Tuesday.

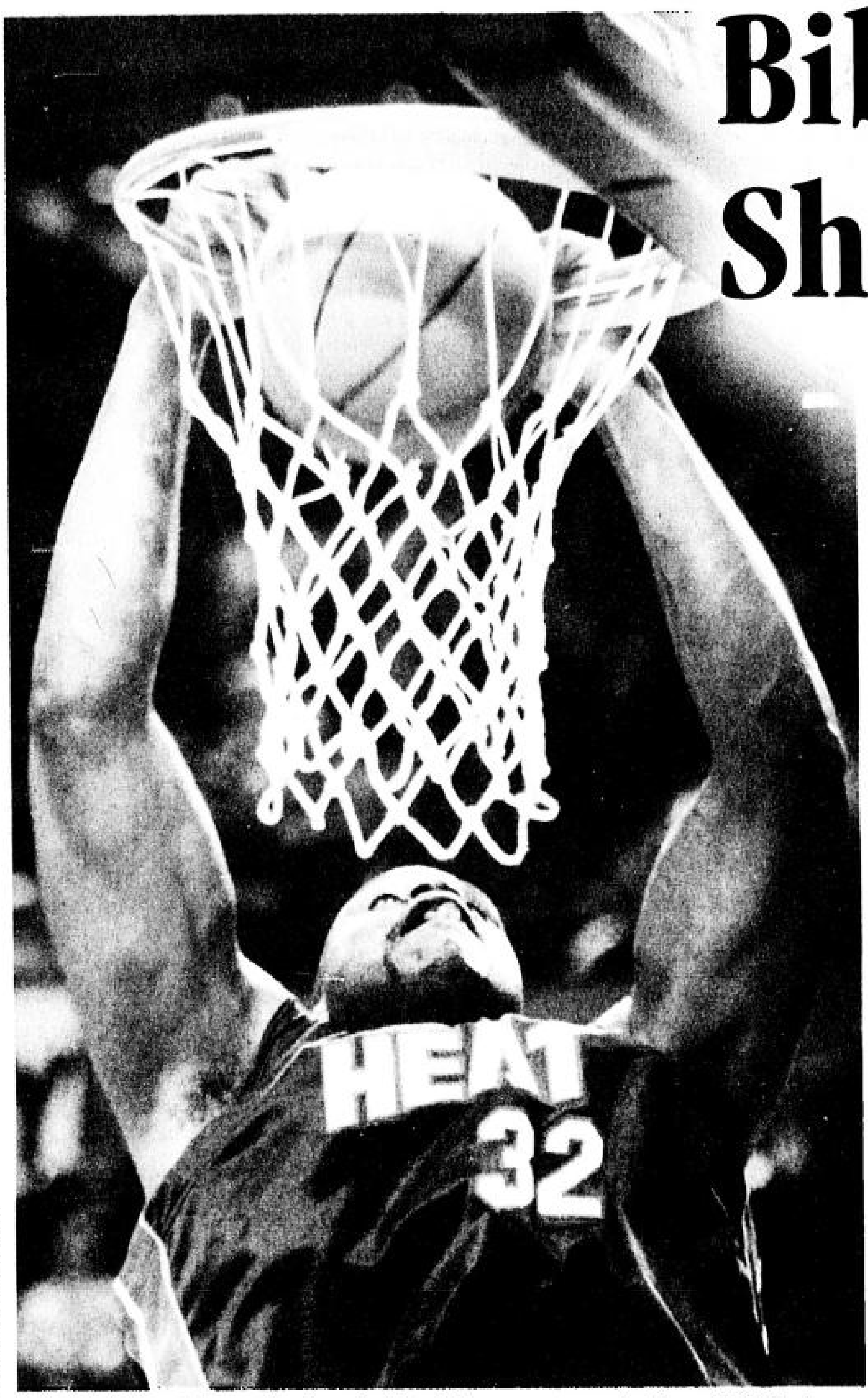
NBA and players union each donate $500,000 to UNICEF

The NBA players' union has also decided to donate $500,000 to help victims of last month's Indian Ocean tsunami, and the NBA will match the gift, a league spokesman said Friday.

The donations are to be made to UNICEF, NBA spokesman Brian Flinn said.

The New York Yankees, who open the 2005 season at home to the Boston Red Sox, will also donate $1 million to help victims of the disaster from the proceeds of that game. *AFP, AP*

VIJAY Singh continues to cast a long shadow on the P



THE UNSTOPPABLE force is at it again. Miami Heat superstar center Shaquille O'Neal dunks with authority as he and spitfire guard Dwyane Wade combine double-double performances to thwart the injury-wracked Portland Trail Blazers. AP

Bibby rescues Kings; Shaq, Wade fuel Hea

ATLANTA—Mike Bibby scored 31 points, including a clinching jumper with 11.7 seconds remaining, and the Sacramento Kings handed the Atlanta Hawks their sixth straight loss, 100-97, Friday night.

The Hawks (5-26) have lost 11 of 12. Only New Orleans has a worse record.

"I know when he takes a shot late in the game, he's going to make it," said Chris Webber, who added 28 points for the Kings. "Even if he's missed 15 in a row."

Webber bounced back from a 6-of-21 shooting performance in a loss to Toronto. He made his first six shots and finished 13-of-22 from the field.

"I saw the switch and I thought that was an advantage for me," Bibby said. "I wasn't going to drive. I looked at the clock. It was going to be a jump shot the whole time. It went in."

In Boston, Richard Hamilton scored 25 points, recovering from a dubious record-setting night by making two key baskets down the stretch to help Detroit beat Boston, 110-104.

Chauncey Billups scored 22 for the defending NBA champions, who lost to Memphis, 101-79, on Thursday night as Hamilton went 0-for-10 from the field and 14-for-14 from the line to become the first player in NBA history to lead his team in scoring without making a single basket.

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Vince Carter scored 22 points, Richard Jefferson added 20 and New Jersey bounced back from two bad road losses to whip Golden State, 82-72.

In Orlando, Florida, Hedo Turkoglu scored 22 points and fellow reserve Pat Garrity added 16 in the Magic's 111-91 rout of the Charlotte Bobcats.

Grant Hill scored 16 points and Tony Battie added 13 on 6-for-6 shooting for the Magic, who on Nov. 6 became the first team to lose to the Bobcats.

MIKE Bibby (10) is fouled by Atlanta guard Tyronn Lue in the first half. REUTERS

In Toronto, Desmond Mason had 23 points and Michael Redd scored 10 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter as Milwaukee nipped Toronto, 107-105, in overtime.

Jalen Rose sent the game overtime with a driving layup at the buzzer, but Mason had five points in the extra period and Toronto's Morris Peterson missed a potential tying jumper with one second left.

In Minneapolis, Sam Cassell scored Minnesota's first 14 points in the fourth quarter and finished with 26 as the Timberwolves ended a four-game losing streak with an 89-84 victory over Philadelphia, which played without guard Allen Iverson.

Iverson, the NBA's leading scorer, sat out the game with a sprained right a tained Wednesday at Utah.

In Memphis, Tennessee, Pau Ga 20 points and Shane Battier added Memphis trip New Orleans, 84-76 tend its winning streak to six game

Memphis outscored New Orlea the final 2:23 to improve to 18-17 time the Grizzlies have been abov season. Baron Davis led the Ho NBA-worst 2-29 after their 10th str with 19 points and eight assists.

In Chicago, Rookie Luol Den points and seven rebounds, and E added 21 points as the Chicago har its eighth consecutive loss, 84-78.

Matt Harpring and Gordan Gir had 13 points for Utah, which h since beating the Philadelphia 76 101, on Dec. 20.

In Portland, Oregon, Miami longest road trip of the season h double-doubles from Shaquille O Dwyane Wade to defeat the injury Portland Trail Blazers, 103-92.

O'Neal had 28 points and 10 and Wade had 25 points and 12 the Heat, who led by as many as 2 ning for the 16th time in 17 games. ly loss came Monday against the S ics, and they can avenge it Sunda Seattle on the second stop of a trip.

Miami has won eight straight ro

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant had and 10 assists and the Los Angeles feated Houston, 111-104, to sn game losing skid.

Four other Lakers scored in d ures, including Lamar Odom with and 12 rebounds and Caron Butle points.

Tracy McGrady led the Rocket points. Yao Ming scored 25 poin fouling out with 2:18 remaining.

Federer forges Qatar duel vs Croat

DOHA—Roger Federer continued his impressive preparations for the defense of his Australian Open title the week after next by reaching the final of the Qatar Open without dropping a serve.

The triple Grand Slam titleholder's delivery has now survived four matches and eight sets, following his 6-3, 6-4 victory over Nikolay Davydenko, the eighth-seeded Russian.

Federer was again impressive but in a different way. Even though he was sometimes below his best, he always controlled the match and made only a positive analysis afterwards.

"You always play better at some times than others, and this was one of those days," he said. "The forehand wasn't making it always. And he made it hard by rallying well with his ground strokes.

"But I still haven't lost my serve so I must be doing something right. If you walk off court and have won and you are not happy, there is something wrong."

Part of the reason for Federer's somber expression and relative loss of fluency was the cold evening, which made it harder to generate pace and easier to mistime the ball.

But he achieved breaks of serve at timely moments—the fifth game of the first set and the opening game of the second set—which left the determined Davydenko playing catch-up almost all of the time.

There was just one break back point, at 30-40 in the second game of the second set, which Federer dismissed with a solid first serve, and thereafter Davydenko was unable to threaten.

The victory was Federer's 43rd in 45 matches, and gave him a chance of extending his long winning streak in finals.

Federer however will face a man who has won three of their six encounters, Ivan Ljubicic, the sixth seed from Croatia. Ljubicic reached the final for the second successive year in Doha by winning, 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), against Albert Costa. *AFP*

WORLD No. 1 Roger Federer of Switzerland whips a return to Nikolay Davydenko of Russia during their ATP Qatar Open semifinal match. AFP

Australia Open los defendin champio

MELBOURNE—Reigning Australian Open champio Henin-Hardenne withdrew year's grand slam tournam urday because of a knee inju

The Belgian battled a m ness for most of last yea managed to win a gold me Athens Olympics in August hoping to be fit enough to d title in Melbourne later this

However, the world num was a late withdrawal fron uary 9-15 Sydney Internat nament, a warm-up event last year.

"It is disappointing becau happy to be back and playin Hardenne told reporters in S

"The rest of me is feeling last year which was so diffic

"I have to be careful and it is hard to accept this decis to go home (Belgium) and Australian Open spokesm Lindsay verified her withdr the grand slam, telling Reu just had confirmation. Henin-Hardenne. She has fracture of the femoral con right knee, which she did ber 28th in Florida.

"She had a scan today problems."

Last year's losing Open fi Clijsters, also of Belgium, pu the tournament on Friday a wrist complaint.

"BOOM-BOOM" Bautista poses with In-Jin Chi's two Korean stablemates during a training break.

Bautista impresses WBC king

Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

NO LESS than World Boxing Council featherweight champion In-jin Chi of South Korea and his trainer, Jin-Kil Kim, are impressed by the awesome form of WBO Asia-Pacific bantamweight king Rey "Boom-Boom" Bautista.

In a torrid sparring session at the ALA gym last Tuesday, Bautista outclassed the two Korean sparmates Chi and Kim brought to Cebu in their own buildup for a title defense away from the freezing conditions in their homeland.

The 18-year-old Bautista first took on the much bigger Jung Jae Kwong and bloodied the Korean's nose aside from inflicting a small cut over his rival's eye that halted the sparring session after three rounds.

The talented Cebuano youngster also outclassed Minsung Lee, the Korean super bantamweight champion and OPBF No. 3 contender.

"He is very good—strong and brave. He will become a world champion," shared Chi and Kim, who also trains the two Korean stablemates of the WBC champ.

Bautista is gearing up for his WBO Asia-Pacific title defense against Vuyisile Bebe of South Africa on Jan. 29 at the air-conditioned Mandaue City sports complex.

The Koreans are training at the ALA gym also in preparation for Chi's title fight against Australian challenger Tommy Browne on Jan. 30 in Seoul, South Korea.

Aside from the favorable local weather, the Koreans also hope to avail of quality sparring partners among the boxers training at the ALA gym.

Bautista has been impressive sparring against heavier foes. Last week, he even floored lightweight Glen Masicampo.

"He is two weeks away from peak form but his power is now awesome," said ALA Gym chief trainer Edito "ALA" Villamor, himself a former world-class fighter. "We have long prepared for this because of the African's iron-jaw reputation."

Tickets for the bout are priced at P350 for ringside, P250 for lower seats and P150 for general admission. Ticket reservations are now accepted. Call (032) 3463489, 09176211014 or 09173253005 for inquiries.

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GA Tour. He has the halfway lead at the Mercedes Open.

Mercedes field gasping in his wake

KAPALUA, Hawaii—Vijay Singh quickly left everyone in his massive wake Friday. By the end of the second round in the season-opening Mercedes Championships, he left them a little hope.

Singh played his first seven holes in 6 under to open a large lead on the Plantation Course at Kapalua, then settled down with a series of pars to finish with an 8-under 65 for a two-shot lead over Mike Weir.

Despite the sluggish finish, the 41-year-old Fijian was halfway home to the tournament scoring record. And he made it as clear as the Pacific waters below that he's still the man to beat on the PGA Tour.

"He shows no signs of slowing down," Weir said after making up ground with a 10-under 63. "It's just a given he's going to be there."

Singh was at 15-under 131 after curling in a 10-foot birdie putt on the par-5 18th.

Ernie Els, who set the 72-hole record two years ago at 31 under, played solidly from start to finish for a 65 that left him two shots out of the lead. Sergio Garcia and Jonathan Kaye were another stroke back after 67s.

Tiger Woods might be right up there with Singh if he can ever figure out his putting. Woods missed three straight birdie chances inside 8 feet on the front nine, and ended his round of 68 by three-putting for par from 35 feet on the par-5 18th. He was 10 under, five shots behind the man who replaced him at No. 1 in the world.

"I had my chances to post a good, solid round," Woods said. "And I didn't do it."

The only thing that went wrong for Singh was putting the wrong driver in his bag. He discovered the mistake about 20 minutes before he teed off, and sent his caddie-trainer to fetch it.

Then, Singh stormed into the lead.

He holed a 15-foot putt on No. 1, hit his tee shot to 5 feet on No. 2, then hit a crisp iron over a gorge to 15 feet on the par-5 fifth hole for an eagle. That was followed by another short birdie, then a 60-foot putt from just off the green. His great run finally ended when he missed a 3-foot birdie putt on the eighth.

Weir was walking up to the 14th green, already 7 under for his round, when he saw a scoreboard that showed Singh already 6 under for his round through seven holes.

"I figured I need to finish the round," Weir said.

The Canadian did just that, finish with three good birdie putts to finish one shot off the course record.

Singh had to take an unplayable lie on the par-5 ninth and still made par, but he failed to capitalize on numerous good chances along the back nine.

"I didn't make too many mistakes," Singh said. *AP*

Red Sox go after curse-ending ball

BOSTON—The Red Sox have the title. Now they want the ball.

Backup first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz caught the ball for the final out of the World Series, ending Boston's 86-year championship drought.

He then put the souvenir in a safe deposit box. Only one problem: The Red Sox say the ball should be in their hands.

The player who didn't join the team until July 31 still wants to keep it but recognizes its meaning to the team's passionate rooters—a prize that completed a four-game sweep of St. Louis and ended the misery.

"Of course I want Red Sox fans to see the ball," Mientkiewicz said in a call to WEEI radio. "The main reason why I hung on to the darn thing is because I want people to see it."

John Henry, the team's principal owner, spoke with Mientkiewicz on Friday after Red Sox president Larry Lucchino said the ball should be given to the club.

"We didn't discuss solutions," Henry said in an e-mail Friday night to The Associated Press. "Larry had already spoken publicly regarding what our position was. I just wanted to listen to what (Mientkiewicz's) feelings were with regard to all of this. I have a great deal of respect for Doug."

Mientkiewicz said Friday he had a "nice conversation" with Henry.

Lucchino had said he planned to ask Mientkiewicz to give the ball to the team.

"We want it to be part of Red Sox archives or museums so it can be shared with the fans," Lucchino said. "We would hope he would understand the historical nature of it."

In an era rife with memorabilia sellers and collectors—the New England Patriots once sold jars of dirt for $10 from Foxboro Stadium before it was torn down after the 2001 season—such a historic baseball might command hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not more.

After all, on the very day Mientkiewicz squeezed the final out in his glove, the ball Barry Bonds hit for his 700th home run brought a top bid of $804,129 after a 10-day online auction.

Mientkiewicz said the ball he caught was "my retirement fund," the Globe reported. On Friday, he said he was kidding. *AP*

La Salle tries to prick UST bubble

MORE than a share of the lead, La Salle would want to be the first to burst the bubble of invincibility Santo Tomas is flaunting in the Shakey's V League.

The Lady Archers get their second crack at Santo Tomas today, seeking to become the first team to inflict a loss on the rampaging defending champions when they clash in the 3 p.m. contest at the Rizal Coliseum.

La Salle, the reigning UAAP champion, has a five-game winning streak going, its only loss coming on opening day at the hands of this same UST team, which swept its six first round games.

The Lady Archers have not had much success over Santo Tomas in this fledging league, losing in the finals last year and in the first game of the second conference last Nov. 4.

Santo Tomas will go into the game as the logical choice, with Roxanne Pimentel proving unstoppable. She will have to be contained if La Salle is entertaining thoughts of turning the tables this time.

STANDINGS	W	L
Santo Tomas	6	0
La Salle	5	1
PSC	5	2
Letran	2	4
Lyceum	2	4
Far Eastern	1	5
San Sebastian	1	6

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Coliseum)
1 p.m.—Lyceum vs Far Eastern
3 p.m.—Santo Tomas vs La Salle

The Tigresses have lost only three sets in racking up a 6-0 card in the first round, and one of those sets came at the hands of La Salle in a 25-21, 29-31, 25-21, 25-19 victory.

La Salle will be bannered by the talented sisters-tandem of Michelle and Mayette Carolino.

Meanwhile, struggling Lyceum and Far Eastern collide in the 1 p.m. contest, trying to stay within striking distance of a playoff berth.

The Lady Pirates are at 2-4, while the Lady Tams have a 1-5 record and are both trying to cling on to their chances of making it past the eliminations.

As things stand and with the way the teams are playing, it seems that only the fourth and last spot in the semifinals seems available, with the PSC Lady Legends occupying third spot, a good three games ahead of Lyceum and Letran.

Tournament format calls for the top four teams to advance to the semifinals, with No.1 clashing with No. 4 and No. 2 and No.3 colliding in separate series for the finals.

Musong Castillo

SPORTSWATCH

GCAP releases '05 schedule

THE GENTLEMEN Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) released yesterday the complete list of derby schedules to be staged at Las Piñas Coliseum for the 2005 cock season. The GCAP derbies, which will start on Jan. 10 and 12, are scheduled every Monday and Wednesday. "We want to make sure that there will be no conflict of schedule with derbies promoted by other cockers' groups," GCAP president Rudy Albano explained. The other GCAP derbies, with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor, are slated on Jan. 24 and 26; Jan. 31 and Feb. 2; Feb. 14 and 16; Feb. 28 and March 2; March 14 and 16; Apr. 4 and 6; Apr. 18 and 20; May 2 and 4; May 23 and 25; June 6 and 8; June 27 and 29.

One-cock affair stakes biggest prize

WITH over 200 entries expected, Pasay City Cockpit's New Year Superfights One-Cock Ulutan Fastest Kill slated on Wednesday, Jan. 12 looms as another blockbuster. At stake in this event being hosted by the Lowell Group is a guaranteed pot of P500,000, the biggest prize ever for a one-cock affair. Entry fee is only P2,200. Registration will start at 7 a.m. on Wednesday. The first fight fires off at 8 a.m. The fastest kill champion will drive home a brand new owner-type jeep. Registration fee in the event sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan Mite Free and Sagupaan B-50 Forten is P1,000. For other inquiries, please contact 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

Governors grace P1-M Friendship derby

GOVERNOR Antonio Kho welcomes participants and guests today and tomorrow to the island-province of Masbate as the much-awaited National Friendship 5-Cock Derby takes center stage at the Kalasangan Hills in Kho's hometown of Cataingan. Like the famous rodeo, which attracts both foreign and local visitors every year, the annual cocking event is aimed to promote Masbate as an alternative tourist destination. Set to grace the two-day encounter, which coincides with Kho's birthday, are Governors Chavit Singson of Ilocos Sur, Atoy Typoco of Camarines Norte, Ray Villafuerte of Camarines Sur, Raul Lee of Sorsogon, and Manny Piñol of North Cotabato. The guaranteed cash prize is P1 million. Also competing are Henry Dedulla of Malaysia and his group, Mayor Ramon Guico of Pangasinan, Patrick Antonio, Dicky Lim, William Co, Boy Lechon, Leo Delfinado, Juancho Aguirre and Bebot Uy.

Filcoba season opener slated

THE STAGE is set for the FILCOBA Season Opener 4-Cock Derby on Wednesday at Roligon Mega Cockpit as the newly-formed Filipino Cockers & Breeders Association continues to gain strength with 45 members listed to date. A completely blind matching system will be imposed, wherein only the entry numbers and weights will be matched first. Non-members are invited to join. Guaranteed cash prize is P300,000 for an entry fee of P7,700 and a minimum bet requirement of P5,500. Meanwhile, reservation of cockhouses for the "Abot-Kaya Part-3 4-Cock Derby" is now in full swing. Hosted by Rolly Ligon, a guaranteed cash prize of P450,000 is at stake. Entry fee is P6,600, while minimum bet is P4,400.

THE SLOVAK Republic's Daniela Hantuchova (right) and Dominik Hrbaty pose with the winner's trophy after they defeated Argentina's Gisela Dulko and Guillermo Coria in the finals. REUTERS

Hantuchova, Hrbaty claim Hopman Cup

PERTH, Australia—Daniela Hantuchova and Dominik Hrbaty each won their opening singles matches Saturday to give Slovakia the Hopman Cup team tennis championship over Argentina.

Hantuchova beat Argentina's Gisela Dulko, 1-6, 6-4, 6-4, and Hrbaty defeated French Open finalist Guillermo Coria, 6-4, 6-1, in the final at the Burswood Dome.

The Slovakians also won the mixed doubles in a walkover when Coria withdrew with a back strain.

Hrbaty did not drop a set in any of his four singles matches at this year's event.

Hantuchova conceded the first set in just 17 minutes against Dulko, who lost all four of her singles matches.

Hantuchova, who lost last year's final against the United States playing with Karol Kucera, was pleased to give the Slovakians the early lead.

"I'm just so happy that I got through this," she said. "I didn't really feel like I was playing my best and I just tried to hang in there and fight for every point."

It was the second Hopman Cup win by Slovakia—Kucera and Karina Hadsudova won in 1998. *AP*

WCSA starts; hosts score

THE WOMEN Colleges Sports Association fired off yesterday with Miriam College and host school Assumption College scoring their first wins in different competitions at the Assumption gym.

Miriam stopped Assumption, 48-32, in basketball while Assumption's volleyball squad put one over College of the Holy Spirit with a 25-15, 25-6, 25-15 straight sets victory.

The rest of the games in the tournaments will be played at the St. Scholastica's College gym.

Assumption president Josefina Magat delivered the inspirational talk during the opening ceremonies that preceded the games.

St. Scholastica president Josefina Nepomuceno declared the league open in front of an enthusiastic field of student-athletes.

The fourth member of the league, which was organized by the Consortium of Women's Colleges, is St. Paul University-Manila.

St. Paul's College of Quezon City took a leave of absence this year.

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"My Girl", "I Can't Hurry Love", "I'm Gonna Make You Love Me", "Get Ready", "Just My Imagination", "The Way You Do The Things You Do"
Jr Walkers All Star band
"(I'm a) Road Runner", "Pucker Up Buttercup", "What Does It Take (To Win your Love)", "Guess Who's The Eyes", "Where did Our Love Go, "Do you See My Love (For You Growing)",
TICKET PRICES
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PATRON B - P 3,500
LOWER BOX - P 2,500
UPPER BOX A - P 1,200
UPPER BOX B - P 600
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ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1 OCEAN'S 12	1 KUNG FU HUSTLE	1 KUNG FU HUSTLE	GUARANTEED SEATS 1 BLADE: TRINITY 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00	1 OCEAN'S 12
2 BLADE: TRINITY	2 OCEAN'S 12	2 OCEAN'S 12	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 OCEAN'S 12 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30	2 BLADE: TRINITY
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE	3 BLADE: TRINITY	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 OCEAN'S 12 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 MANO PO 3 2:00, 4:10, 6:20, 8:30, 10:30	3 ONE MISSED CALL
4 OCEAN'S 12	4 ENTENG KABISOTE	4 PANAGHOY SA SUBA	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 OCEAN'S 12 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20	4 HAPPY TOGETHER
5 HAPPY TOGETHER		5 SIGAW	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 KUNG FU HUSTLE 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30	5
		6 BLADE: TRINITY		
		7 HAPPY TOGETHER		

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 BLADE: TRINITY 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:40
2 OCEAN'S 12 1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
GRAND FIESTA SALE January 14 to 31, 2005	GRAND FIESTA SALE January 14 to 31, 2005	METRO EVENT WITH BEA ALONZO January 15, 2005

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GRAND FIESTA SALE January 14 to 31, 2005	GRAND FIESTA SALE January 14 to 31, 2005

Onstage

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Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231-5342 loc 324 • AYALA CINEMA LINKS: For screening times call 729-7777.
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2 RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED

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1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 (DTS) SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE

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2 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE

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2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 (DOLBY) SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

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2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 ENTENG KABISOTE
5 BLADE TRINITY

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2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 (DTS) ENTENG KABISOTE
4 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY

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1 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 PANAGHOY SA SUBA

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1 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 (DOLBY) PANAGHOY SA SUBA
4 (DTS) SIGAW

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1 (DOLBY EX) KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 (DTS EX) OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

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1 HAPPY TOGETHER
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 (DOLBY) KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE

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1 AISHITE IMASU 1941
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 (DOLBY) ALEXANDER
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1 SKY CAPTAIN
2 SHARK TALE

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1 KUN FU HUSTLE
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
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1 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
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3 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
4 MANO PO 3
5 KUNG FU HUSTLE

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2 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE

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1 BLADE TRINITY
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 SIGAW
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE
5 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 SIGAW
2 OCEAN'S TWELVE
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
5 BLADE TRINITY
6 KUNG FU HUSTLE

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2 MANO PO 3
3 BLADE TRINITY
4 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
5 AISHITE IMASU
6 ONE MISSED CALL

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1	OCEAN'S 12	KUNG FU HUSTLE	KUNG FU HUSTLE	GUARANTEED SEATS BLADE: TRINITY 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00	OCEAN'S 12
2	BLADE: TRINITY	OCEAN'S 12	OCEAN'S 12	GUARANTEED SEATS OCEAN'S 12 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30	BLADE: TRINITY
3	KUNG FU HUSTLE	BLADE: TRINITY	GUARANTEED SEATS OCEAN'S 12 12:20, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	GUARANTEED SEATS MANO PO 3 2:00, 4:10, 6:20, 8:30, 10:30	ONE MISSED CALL
4	OCEAN'S 12	ENTENG KABISOTE	PANAGHOY SA SUBA	GUARANTEED SEATS OCEAN'S 12 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20	HAPPY TOGETHER
5	HAPPY TOGETHER		SIGAW	GUARANTEED SEATS KUNG FU HUSTLE 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30	
6			BLADE: TRINITY		
7			HAPPY TOGETHER		

	GB1 GREENBELT 1
1	BLADE: TRINITY 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:40
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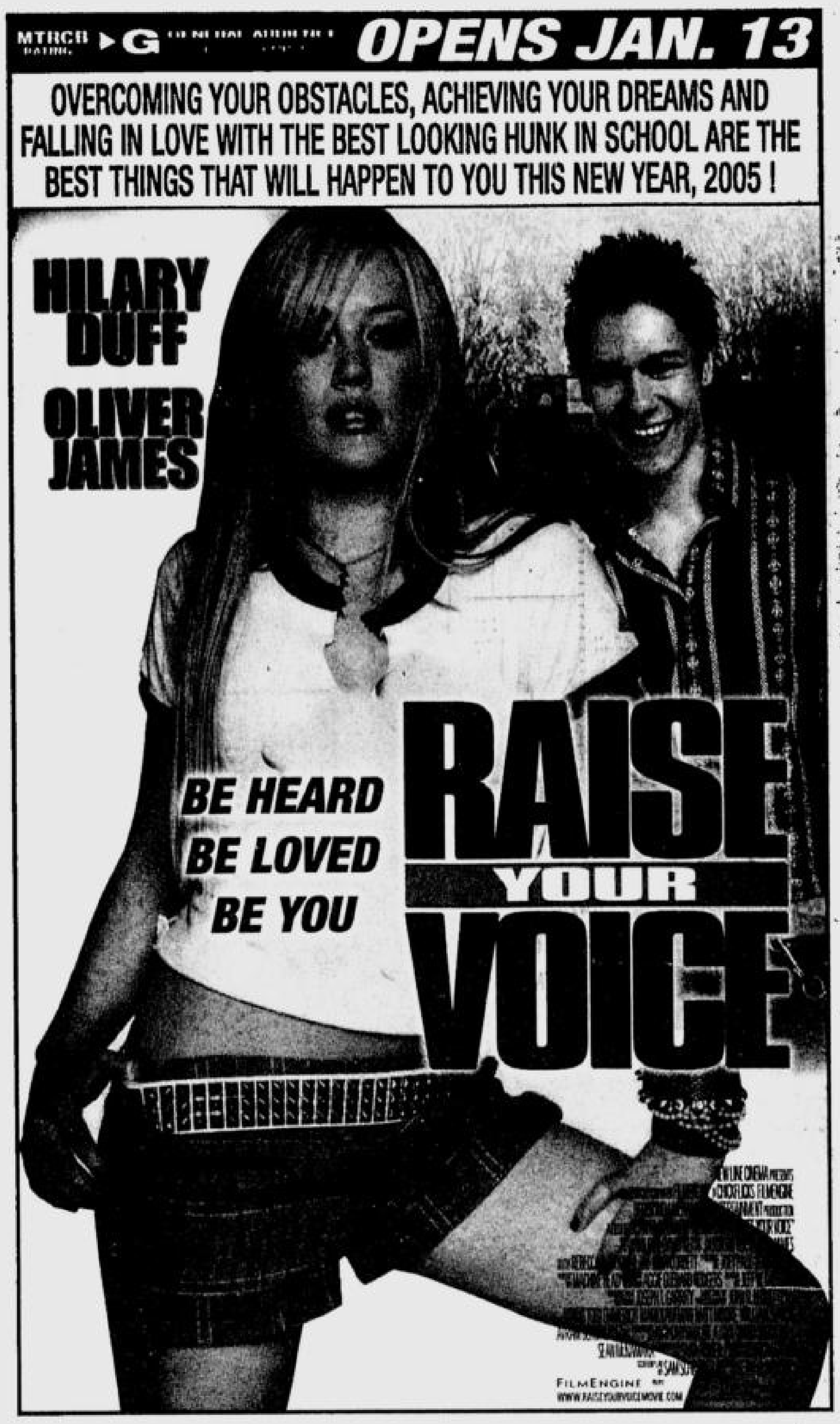

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BE LOVED
BE YOU

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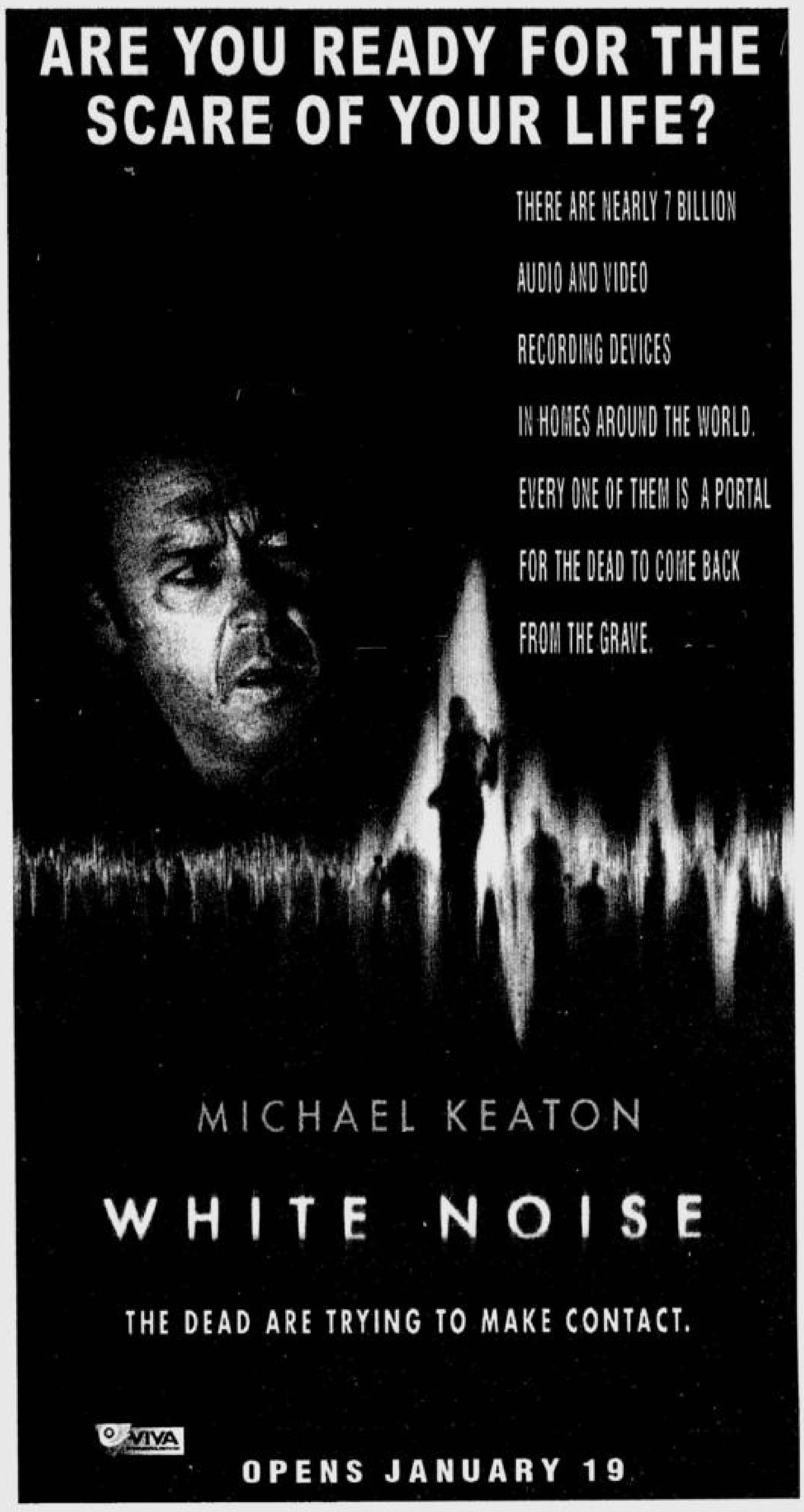

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WHITE NOISE

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VIVA

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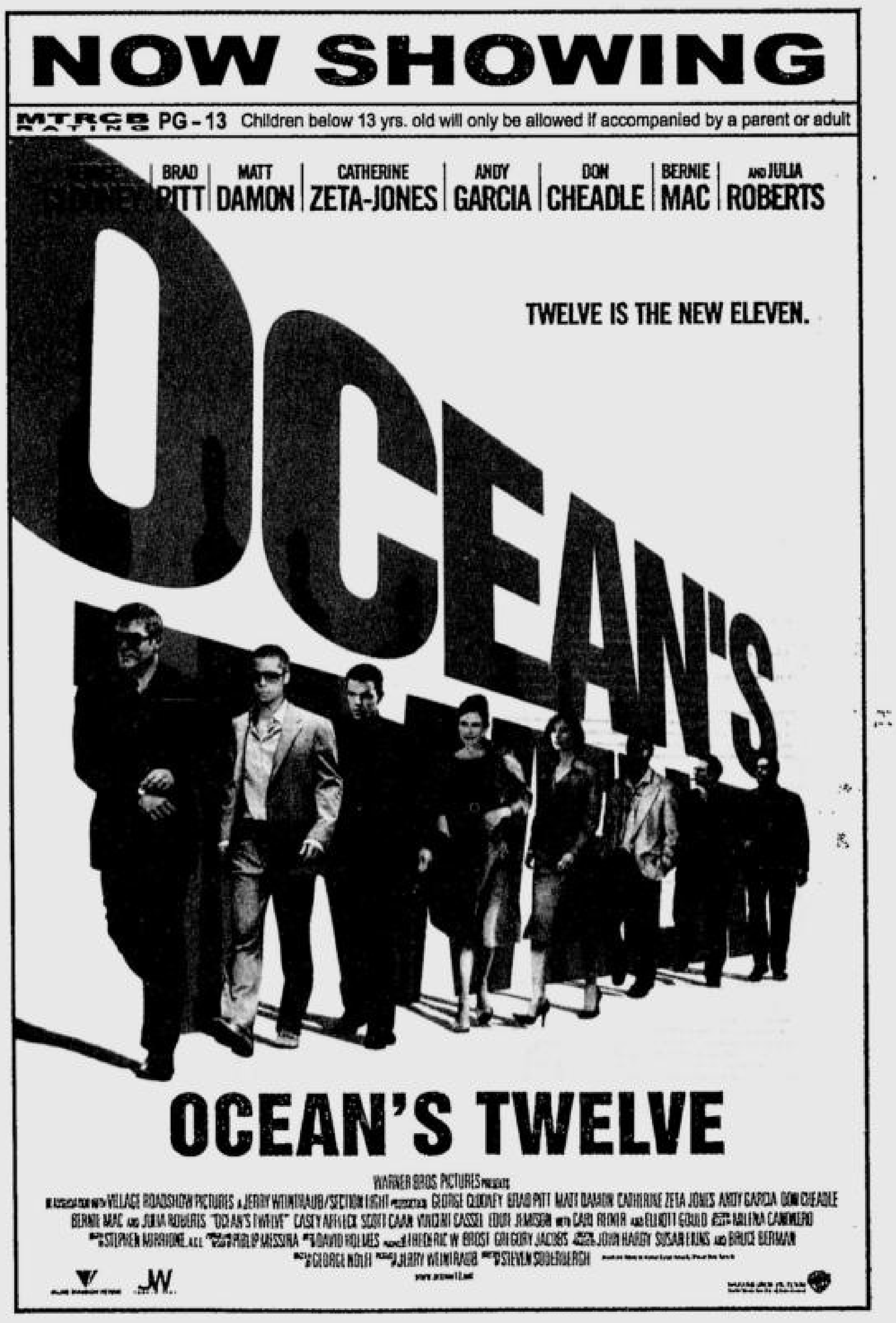

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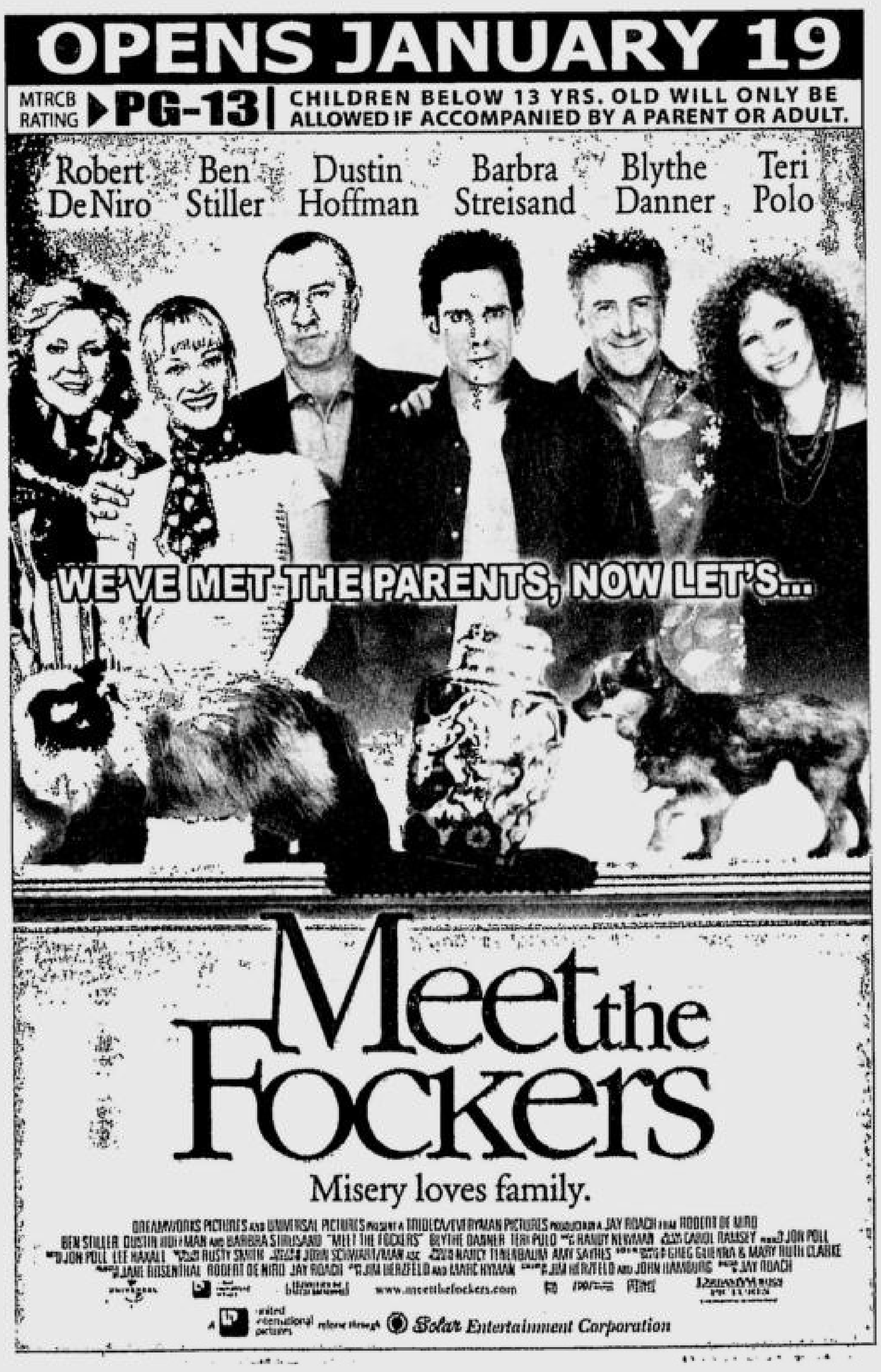
TWELVE IS THE NEW ELEVEN.

OCEAN'S TWELVE

WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS



OPENS JANUARY 19

MTRCB RATING ▶PG-13 | CHILDREN BELOW 13 YRS. OLD WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED IF ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR ADULT.

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ROSE771
DREAM271
GODISLUV71
CUTEGAL71
SUNSET671
ILUVU1271
FRENCH71
KITTY471
WUZUP571
CALLING171
MISSU1771
STOPSMOKING71
PACUTE271
DOLPHINS171
MPTURBO71
FASTCAR171
SEXYPIG71
SOSEXY371
JAMES171
PAEC71
DRAGON1571
MAGNET71
8BALL171
PANTHER371
PLAYBOY171
TATU171
BED71
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MVP171
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YINDRAGON71
DABEST71
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DINNER171
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COW371
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CATS
FLOWERS

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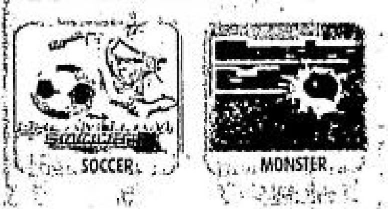
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MONSTER

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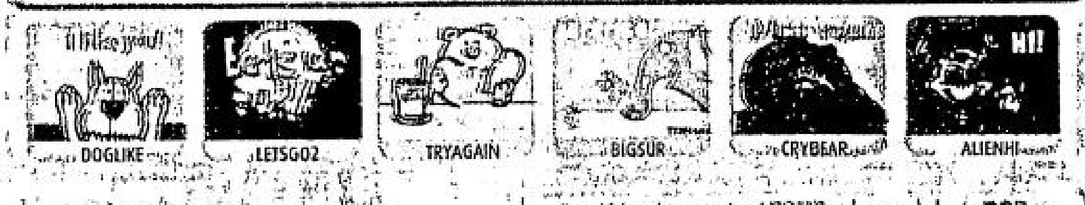
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LETSGO2
TRYAGAIN
BIGSUR
CRYBEAR
ALIENHI

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Title	Artist	Keyword
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How Could You Say You Love Me	*Sarah Geronimo*	**HOWCOULDU**
Rumors	*Lindsay Lohan*	**RUMORS**
Liwanag Sa Dilim	*Rivermaya*	**LIWANAG**
Pasaway	*J. Brothers*	**PASAWAY**
Shine	*Regine Velasquez*	**SHINE**
My Boo	*Usher & Alicia Keys*	**MYBOO**
These Words	*Natasha Bedingfield*	**THESEWORDS**
Now That I Have You	*Erik Santos & Sheryn Regis*	**NOWDATIHAVU**
Spitfire	*Prodigy*	**SPITFIRE**
Sunday Morning	*Maroon 5*	**SUNDAYMORN**
Back Home	*Yellowcard*	**BACKHOME**
Masaya	*Bamboo*	**MASAYA**
My Prerogative	*Britney Spears*	**MYPREROG**

Also available to Talk 'N Text, Addict and SMART Gold subscribers.

Note: In order for you to identify which musical work the ringtone in question is based on, we have, in addition to the song title, referred an artist who has made the song well known. The artist in question has not participated in the production of the ringtone.

MECHANICS:

1. Promo is open to all SMART Subscribers nationwide: Smart Gold, Addict Mobile, Infinity, SMART Buddy, SMART Kid and Talk n Text Subscribers.
2. User registers to the promotion by texting in **ZED REG <name>/<address>** and sending it to **288**. Ex. ZED REG Rafael Peran/10 Zed St., Rosario, Pasig City.
3. Registration is free-of-charge.
4. Subscriber will receive a confirmation text message upon registration.
5. Every P5 worth of graphics, java and tones based services will earn 1 Raffle entry (ex: polytone costs P15 = 3 Raffle Entries). Subscribe to any zed info service and earn 1 raffle entry upon activation (ex: virgo on = 1 raffle entry).

SERVICE NAME	KEYWORD
CALENDAR LOGOS	**CAL**
GUY CALENDAR LOGOS	**CALGUY**
GAL CALENDAR LOGOS	**CALGAL**

Get 1 entry upon subscription and 1 entry daily.

SERVICE NAME	KEYWORD
BUDDY FINDER	**WIS**

Get 1 entry every time you locate your buddy.

SERVICE NAME	KEYWORD
JAM MUSIC MAGAZINE	**JAM ON**
CHIC MAGAZINE	**CHIC ON <mmmddyyyy>**

Get 1 entry upon subscription and additional 3 entries for every logo, pic message or tones received.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2631 Series of 2004. See flyers for details.

SERVICE NAME	KEYWORD
DAILY HOROSCOPE	**<Your Zodiac Sign> ON**
QUOTE OF THE DAY	**QUOTE ON**

Get 1 entry upon subscription.

For list of zed services, send **ZED LIST** to **288**.

Promo period October 27, 2004 to January 23, 2005

Photo may vary from actual unit. For more details and info, visit any SMART Wireless Center.

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E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde
Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Aga, Sherilyn, Kris, Cherrie Pie, Giselle, Manny, Vilma and Dolphy

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

ONE of the things that, no fail, make me raise an eyebrow to the skies is the putdown of stars. See, movie stars—like band members, painters, designers, composers, theater people, dancers, comics, directors and, yes, writers—have to be my favorite people. Very few come close to what they are: spirited, charming, dramatic, restless, different, and even strange. There is just little company hereabouts more stimulating.

Did you see **Aga Muhlach** in **Joey Reyes**' "Kung Ako Na Lang Sana?" My god, that is an actor. And we're not even talking momentous drama here, we're talking simple boy-girl material, but he's right there on that screen giving us those moments when we just know—This is it! He's got it right there! Cannot imagine anyone not wanting to meet this fellow, to just stare at him and figure out where all that honesty is coming from.

Sherilyn Reyes, a beauty pageant winner and a character actress today, can be hateful on the screen—but in person? Heavens, simply one of the nicest and most self-effacing stars one can be in the company of, and she's blessed with a colorful past, too. Definitely, there's a complexity to her that would make for captivating company at a cafe.

I'm biased, but **Kris Aquino**—I've never had a bad moment with. Without trying at all, without meaning to, without knowing how—she is hilarious. Once, at her penthouse, surprised that she hadn't let on that she knew I had apologies to make to someone who was then also at her place, I say: "You knew?" Without batting an eyelash, she replies, "I told you I was brought up well." Another time, on the phone, after she lets drop that she agreed with SM Cinema's stand to shut out films not to its liking, I get into my knee-jerk speech against censorship, and in the middle of it she says, "*Ay*, I'm just mouthing what my mom told me. You know *naman* I'm a good daughter *na*, I listen to my mom." I swear it's impossible to want, and not to want, to wring this girl's neck.

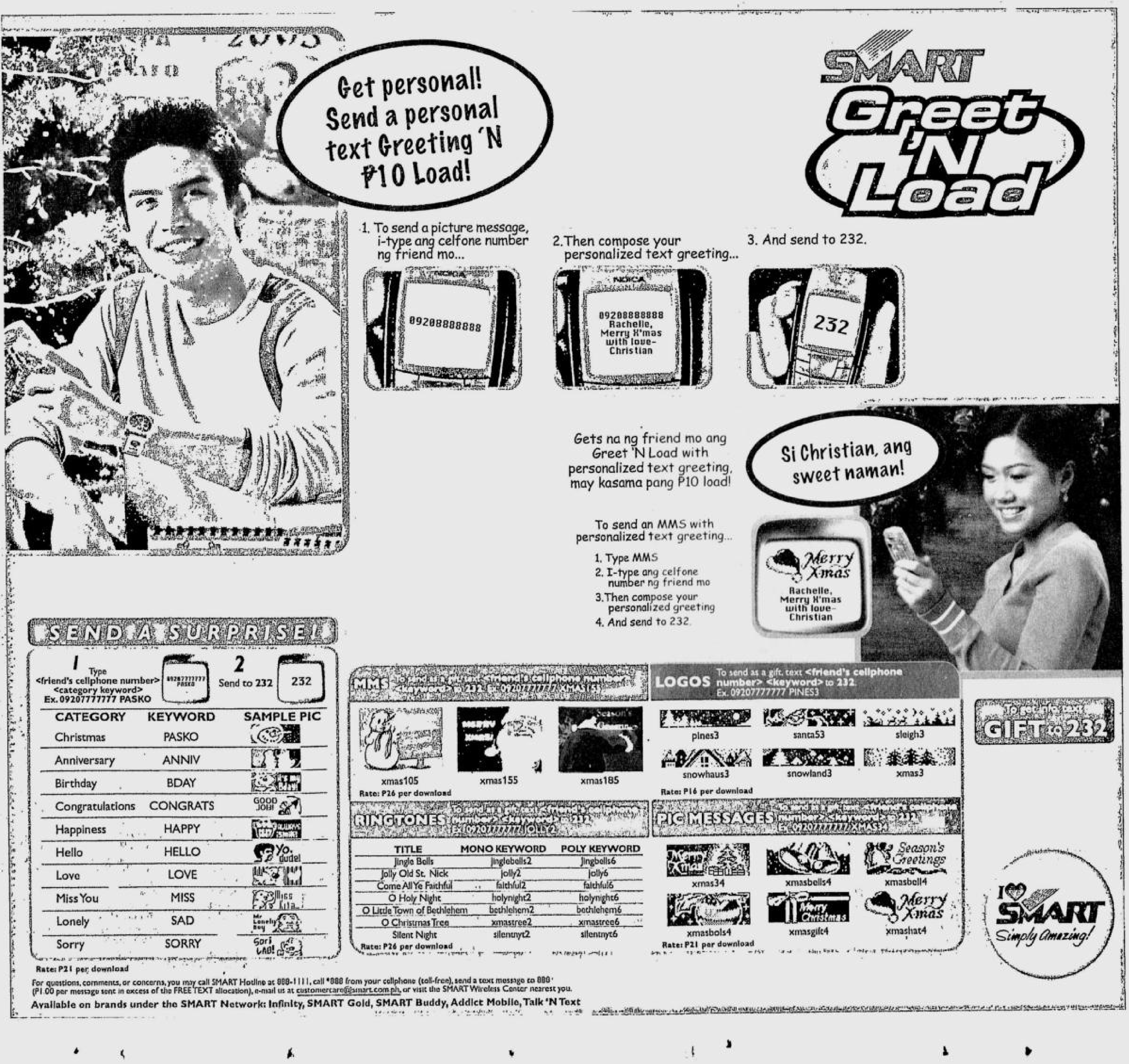
Cherrie Pie Picache is a wondrous thing on screen every single time, and it doesn't matter if the film is heavy, light, or we can't tell. She survives them all! **Jeffrey Jeturian**'s "Bridal Shower" comes to mind. If she hadn't gotten an award for it, which she did, I'd still say she made that wonderful movie zing. Yet—amazing grace—what a normal person in real life—wide-eyed, polite, easy on the nerves, talks well, listens even better, quite like a favorite neighbor might. Surely, *I'd* be schizophrenic if I were that talented.

Giselle Sanchez comes on strong to some people, even to co-stars like **Juliana Palermo**, but she's stimulating. Caught her onstage once, as a sexually and politically aggressive New Yorker or something, and long after I'd forgotten the script, her performance stayed with me. She is a presence. Then caught one of her corporate shows—at the Summit Media launch of Hi! magazine—and I tell you, the girl has got entertainment down to a science. But we at YES! were really entranced when, at a Christmas shoot, she was the wackiest, most imaginative, most hyper subject ever. She actually opened the door to us in a sexy Santa Claus outfit and, I bet, would've offered to go down the chimney if there were one! That kind of enthusiasm is precious.

PHOTOS BY YES! MAGAZINE AND INQUIRER

Manny Castañeda is one of those genuine talents—writer, stage and film actor, director—we really should see more of. A long ways back, saw him in a play where he was so good, he made it easy to ignore the lapel mike and that control box in his waistline that was constantly threatening to disgorge itself out of his skimpy costume! In the movies, for sure he can be given better, bigger vehicles, but I think anyway that I love him best live, in freefall spiels—the hardest kind to master. Note that the guy is also an interior designer who goes for the abundant but always lands on tasteful ground (to go by his Syquia apartment) and is a fantastic cook (to eat is to believe).

AGA/ A2-2



Get personal! Send a personal text Greeting 'N ₱10 Load!

SMART Greet 'N Load

1. To send a picture message, i-type ang celfone number ng friend mo...
2. Then compose your personalized text greeting...
3. And send to 232.

09208888888

09208888888 Rachelle, Merry X'mas with love- Christian

232

Gets na ng friend mo ang Greet 'N Load with personalized text greeting, may kasama pang P10 load!

Si Christian, ang sweet naman!

To send an MMS with personalized text greeting...
1. Type MMS
2. I-type ang celfone number ng friend mo
3. Then compose your personalized greeting
4. And send to 232.

Merry Xmas
Rachelle, Merry X'mas with love- Christian

SEND A SURPRISE!

1 Type <friend's cellphone number> <category keyword> Ex. 09207777777 PASKO
2 Send to 232

CATEGORY	KEYWORD	SAMPLE PIC
Christmas	PASKO	
Anniversary	ANNIV	
Birthday	BDAY	
Congratulations	CONGRATS	GOOD JOB!
Happiness	HAPPY	
Hello	HELLO	Yo, dude!
Love	LOVE	
Miss You	MISS	Miss kita
Lonely	SAD	Mr Lonely boy
Sorry	SORRY	Sori LAD!

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xmas105 xmas155 xmas185

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pines3 santa53 sleigh3
snowhaus3 snowland3 xmas3

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RINGTONES To send as a gift, text <friend's cellphone number> <keyword> to 232. Ex. 09207777777 JOLLY2

TITLE	MONO KEYWORD	POLY KEYWORD
Jingle Bells	jinglebells2	jingbells6
Jolly Old St. Nick	jolly2	jolly6
Come All Ye Faithful	faithful2	faithful6
O Holy Night	holynight2	holynight6
O Little Town of Bethlehem	bethlehem2	bethlehem6
O Christmas Tree	xmastree2	xmastree6
Silent Night	silentnyt2	silentnyt6

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PIC MESSAGES To send as a gift, text <friend's cellphone number> <keyword> to 232. Ex. 09207777777 XMAS34

xmas34 xmasbells4 xmasbell4
xmasbols4 xmasgift4 xmashat4

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To get info text GIFT to 232

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Available on brands under the SMART Network: Infinity, SMART Gold, SMART Buddy, Addict Mobile, Talk 'N Text

Aga, Sherilyn, Kris, . . .

From page A2-1

Vilma Santos is fascinating. She chooses her projects well, runs her career wisely, works at being the old-world movie star—gracious, unruffled, glamorous. She knows her angle. Knows her press. Knows this to be the business of illusion and perception. She is in control. None of this, by the way, is easy stuff. (Her big rival, **Nora Aunor**, certainly never mastered any of it). No wonder *Ate* Vi is the star that everyone, even a **Sharon Cuneta**, wants to be. And the bottomline? Yes, with the years, she's only gotten better and better on that big screen.

Dolphy is a star showbiz adores. It takes one meeting with him, just one, and you're hooked. Even if you were a Marian devotee who thinks a man having 16 kids by some five women is unforgivable, you'll bend the rules for *Mang* Dolphy. What can I say? *Mabait na tao talaga.* And what a storyteller! Great details, recreating scenes with words, building up so effortlessly to punch lines, and best of all—like his friend FPJ—never needing to be the star of his stories. Often, in fact, he will tell of his days as an extra, when his days-long shoots wind up on the screen as just his head in a cap in a scene filled with multiple heads in caps. And of the days when he and his closest buddies had no money and they made money happen! Wow! Someone should be taking all this down.

Certainly, there is more to be told for another Sunday. But when all is said and done, let the educated snobs hang their heads and rue their terribly common and uninteresting lives. I'll take movie stars anytime—and have myself a sumptuous life!

Austrian named Kickinger plays Schwarzenegger

GRAZ, Austria—He's Austrian, he bears a striking resemblance to his hero and he's got bulging biceps he likes to call "my little Alps." Who better to play Arnold Schwarzenegger in a US made-for-TV movie than local actor Roland Kickinger?

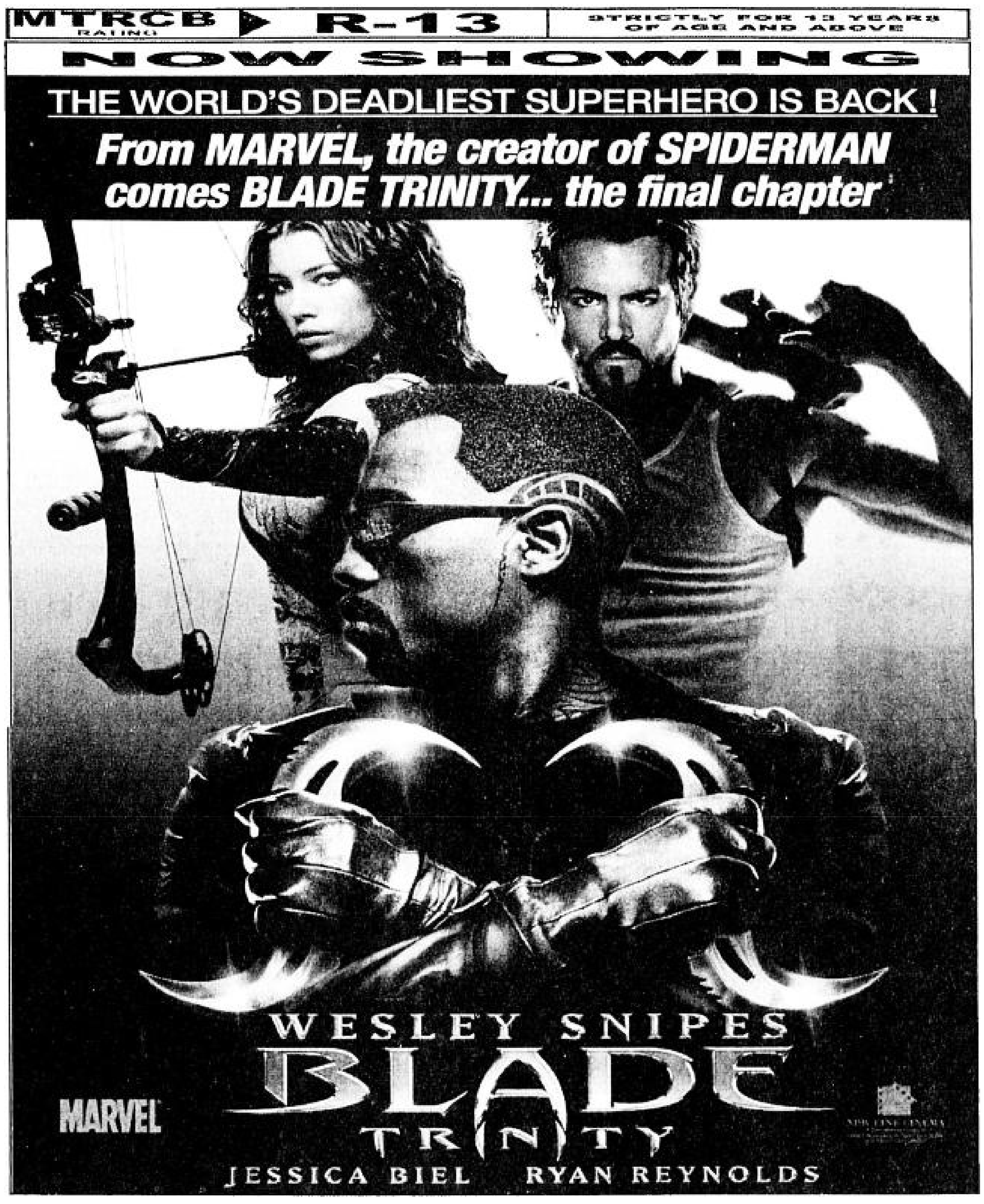
Inspired by the Schwarzenegger film "Conan the Barbarian," Kickinger began bodybuilding at a gym in Vienna in the 1980s. Now he's starring as a young Schwarzenegger in "See Arnold Run," a film being made by the American cable channel A&E.

Kickinger, a former Mr. Austria who says he befriended Schwarzenegger and has idolized the California governor for years, told Austrian television Thursday it's a dream role.

"What Arnold has done for me and for every bodybuilder and immigrant is amazing," he said. "I'm one of his biggest fans."

Kickinger, 36, who recently gained US citizenship just as Schwarzenegger did in 1984, moved to California in 1995, where he earned cash by flexing his muscles and posing for tourists for $3 a pop. He was later cast in a small role with Mel Gibson in "Lethal Weapon 4."

German actor Juergen Prochnow plays Schwarzenegger as governor in "See Arnold Run." The film, directed by James B. Rogers, who was an assistant director on "Me, Myself & Irene," "American Pie" and "Dumb and Dumber," is scheduled to debut on A&E at the end of January. AP



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NOW SHOWING
THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST SUPERHERO IS BACK !
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BLADE TRINITY
JESSICA BIEL RYAN REYNOLDS
MARVEL

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moviepickoftheWeek
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BRAD PITT
MATT DAMON
CATHERINE ZETA-JONES
ANDY GARCIA
DON CHEADLE
BERNIE MAC
AND JULIA ROBERTS
TWELVE IS THE NEW ELEVEN.
OCEAN'S TWELVE
NOW SHOWING

NOW SHOWING

BLADE TRINITY
MTRCB RATING: R13
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SM Pampanga • Bacoor
Cebu • Iloilo • Davao
Cagayan de Oro

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MTRCB RATING: PG13
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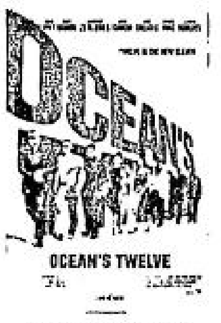
Bacoor • Dasmariñas



OCEAN'S TWELVE
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Cagayan de Oro

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
5 MANO PO 3
6 ENTENG KABISOTE

sm city marilao
1 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

sm city baguio
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
4 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON

sm city bacoor
1 SIGAW
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE
5 BLADE TRINITY
6 ENTENG KABISOTE
7 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
8 MANO PO 3

sm city batangas
1 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 PANAGHOY SA SUBA

sm city dasmariñas
1 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 ENTENG KABISOTE

sm city lucena
1 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 MANO PO 3
3 ONE MISSED CALL
4 ENTENG KABISOTE

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 OCEAN'S TWELVE
3 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
5 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
6 ONE MISSED CALL
7 ENTENG KABISOTE
8 BLADE TRINITY

sm city iloilo
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 RESERVED
3 BLADE TRINITY
4 ENTENG KABISOTE
5 ONE MISSED CALL
6 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
7 RESERVED
8 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

sm city davao
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 ONE MISSED CALL
3 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
5 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE

sm city cagayan de oro
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
3 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
4 THE FORGOTTEN

Movies are subject to change without prior notice • For complete movie schedule, vi

SPECIAL NEW YEAR PRESENTATION FOR THE FAMILY!
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 PARENTS CAUTIONED AGAINST BRINGING CHILDREN BELOW 10 YRS OLD DUE TO HARD ACTION SCENES
STEPHEN CHOW
Being a good guy is harder than it looks.
功夫
KUNG FU HUSTLE
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED
SIGAW NG SAMBAYANAN, LASTIKMAN ANG NO. 1 SUPERHERO NG BAYAN!
JOHN ESTRADA DANILO BARRIOS
ELIZABETH OROPESA JOEL TORRE MARK GIL BEARWIN MEILY
TUESDAY VARGAS MIKEL CAMPOS
AND CHERIE GIL AS LASTIKA
WINNER BEST VISUAL EFFECTS!
SARAH GERONIMO
MARK BAUTISTA
AS
MARS RAVELO'S
LASTIKMAN
UNANG BANAT
Directed by MAC C. ALEJANDRE NOW SHOWING VIVA

OPENS JANUARY 13, 2005 MTRCB R-13
Not since "Notting Hill" has there been a Romantic Comedy this sweet, sexy and funny!
KATRIN WEISSER TIM WILLIAMS SANDRA LEONHARD
in search of an impotent man
GABY HAUPTMANN
LAUTERBACH BACH DONING

Educated guesses, safe bets and wild conjectures

IT'S THAT time of the year when TV programs ask psychics, occultists, fortune tellers, visionaries, and assorted other futurists divine what's in store for the country.

As usual, the resource persons trot out their cards, horoscopes, crystal balls, educated guesses, safe bets and wild conjectures, secure in the thought that, at the end of 2005, most people shall pretty much have forgotten the guesses they got wrong.

As for the seer's predictions that turn out to be self-fulfilling prophecies, you can be sure that they'll keep pointing them out over and over again, to add to their roster of clients.

Some days ago, we viewed such a "predictions for 2005" show on the tube and, as usual, the guest seers played it safe and predictable: more hard times, natural disasters, fires, crimes, political contretemps—and, the newest kids on the block, "more tsunamis!"

Instructively, however, most of the seers agreed that President Arroyo would have a hard time completing her term. But they ended up hedging and pointing out that she could "still do something" to counteract those bad vibes. What that "something" was, however, they failed to specify. Gee, thanks.

As for the denizens of the wonderful world of local show business, the psychics predicted the usual romances, unwanted pregnancies, failed marriages, accidents and scandals—again, with no details.

Well, some "initials" were occasionally provided, but a lot of help they were, right? So far, so safe...

But, when it came to making predictions about the lives and careers of the program's hosts, the seers suddenly stopped being coy, and were effusive in their roseate raves about how well 2005 would turn out to be for them!

Naturally, the hosts were thrilled to be proclaimed as such fortunate creatures. They were so thrilled that they didn't notice the psychics' sudden *sipsip* shift.

The hosts were similarly unquestioning when the psychic's past predictions for 2004 were reviewed. The utterly uncritical review was amusing to listen to, because it found particular relevance in the general "predictions" that the seers had made a year ago.

Well, one year from now, the same silly rigodon will be given another trot around the park, for the country's viewers to either take note off, or totally ignore.

Please, ignore.

'Catwoman'

HALLE Berry's latest starrer, "Catwoman," is now on DVD and VCD. DVD includes special features like additional scenes, an alternative ending, and two documentaries on Catwoman's evolution.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

'A Very Long Engagement'

THE DIRECTOR and star of "Amelie" (**Jean-Pierre Jeunet and Audrey Tautou**) team up again in "A Very Long Engagement." The film is another love story, but quite different from "Amelie."

It's set at the end of World War I. Tautou plays Mathilde, a young Frenchwoman who receives word that her fiancé Manech (**Gaspard Ulliel**) has been wounded, court-martialed and pushed into the no-man's-land between the French and German armies—and almost certain death.

Unwilling to accept that her fiancé is lost to her forever, Mathilde embarks on an extraordinary journey. As she draws closer to the truth, she is drawn deeper into the horrors of war, and the indelible marks it leaves on those whose lives it has touched.

The Warner Bros. film has won a Golden Globe nomination for Best Foreign Language Film, and has been hailed by some critics' groups as one of the 10 best movies of 2004.

Regine and Pops in concert

REGINE Velasquez and **Pops Fernandez** perform together (with guest star **Erik Santos**) in a pre-Valentine show (on Feb. 11 and 12) at the Ultra. **Rowell Santiago** directs, and musical direction is by **Raul Mitra** and **Homer Flores**. Call 891-5610.

On Cartoon Network

ON JAN. 9 at 7 p.m., Cartoon Network telecasts a new episode of "Megas XLR": While training in deep space, coop and the gang discover the mysterious "Ringworld," a galactic library with massive amounts of information—some of which may prove critical in destroying the Earth-invading Glorft.

But they soon discover that it's infested with thousands of energy-eating insects! Can they protect the priceless information and stay alive?

Live on CNN

CNN will cover the Palestinian presidential elections set on Jan. 9. **Christiane Amanpour, Brent Sadler** and **Jane Arraf** are among the CNN correspondents scheduled to report on the developments and issues concerning the elections from various sites in Iraq.

BAGONG TAON
BONGGANG TAON

PLDT launches 5-day massive nationwide rewards and incentive campaign for the New Year

Leading telecommunications provider PLDT this week let loose a massive nationwide rewards and incentive campaign for existing and would-be-subscribers in an extended celebration of the New Year dubbed "Bagong Taon, Bonggang Taon." It is aimed at benefiting the more than two million household subscribers of the telecom giant, and also drawing in new residential clients who can benefit from PLDT's unrivalled national digital telephone backbone that's fast, efficient and affords value-for-money voice and data services.

National Telebabad Day

Bagong Taon, Bonggang Taon kicked-off with a successful "National Telebabad Day" on January 5. For one whole day, hundreds of thousands of PLDT subscribers all over the Philippines were able to make unlimited calls to other PLDT landlines and SMART and Talk 'N Text cell phones for only P50. National Telebabad Day came close on the heels of the unlimited NDD calls offered by PLDT for four days during the holidays. On December 24, 25, 31 last year and on January 1 this year, a record-setting number of hours were logged as PLDT subscribers took advantage of the virtually-free NDD calls offered. Aside from benefiting subscribers, the event became a show of strength for PLDT as it was able to show the real capacity of its NDD digital transmission network by being able to meet the demand of the large amount of calls, something that other networks, which are actually just area operators, would not have been able to do. During the four day unlimited PLDT NDD promo and also on National Telebabad Day, no calls were reportedly dropped and the voice transmission stayed crisp and clear.

Freebies, discounts and rewards unleashed

Aside from the National Telebabad Day, PLDT also offered valuable freebies and discounts from January 5 to 9 such as free landline installation for new subscribers, free landline monthly fees for up to two months and up to 50% discount on monthly service fees on the first year on subscription to myDSL,PLDT's ultra-fast broadband Internet service.

Several Home Rewards Caravans also rolled out to barangays in Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Cavite, Batangas and Metro Manila during the 5-day blitz. Dubbed as "Sugod Barangay, Hatid Regalo," these caravans gave away appliances, gift certificates, PLDT premium items and other prizes to households that subscribed on the spot.

Warm reception in Manila and Cebu

Consumers all over the Philippines welcomed PLDT's Bagong Taon, Bonggang Taon. In Cavite, Lotus Mall's parking lot was swarmed by Caviteños eager to switch to PLDT landlines or existing subscribers wanting to know what is in store for them. The PLDT booth positioned at the entrance of the mall became the first stop of SM Bacoor patrons as they gamely sampled the service of the PLDT NDD service. The two sites are just two out of the 11 areas in Cavite that PLDT visited. Yellow balloons and attractive streamers festooned booths and vehicles while PLDT service vans flashed their lights and blew their horns as charming ladies atop waved to the huge crowds in Batangas. Jennifer Calope, a resident of Batangas and a PLDT prepaid user, wants an immediate installation of a PLDT postpaid line to enjoy the virtually-free NDD calls. "I want my own line installed so I won't have to go to my aunt's house to make unlimited NDD calls at such low rates," she added. Batangueños in Batangas City, Lipa, Tanauan and San Jose share Calope's sentiments so they all trooped to the nearest booths to avail of the offer immediately after witnessing the lively caravan.

Cebuanos also joined the celebration as hundreds flocked to the SM Cebu during the National Telebabad Day to take advantage of the heavily discounted NDD calls and avail of the waived landline installation fee and discounts on myDSL subscription. The PLDT Home Rewards Caravan, with the brightly-colored PLDT service vans as vanguards, fanned out to twenty barangay clusters across Cebu bearing an array of free gifts item plus premium home appliances at huge discounts. The Fiesta Caravans were met by throngs of homemakers and other residential landline subscribers who redeemed their Home Rewards credits for referring new clients and for being long time PLDT subscribers.

More to come

The continuing implementation of PLDT's Bagong Taon, Bonggang Taon campaign promises yet more benefits for consumers in the weeks ahead. That's why there really is no better time to subscribe and connect to PLDT than now as PLDT continues to deliver more unequalled and real value to Filipino consumers nationwide. Indeed, old and new PLDT subscribers can look forward to bigger discounts, rewards, value added services and lots of other exciting surprises for the New Year.

CALL 171
PLDT
Iba Pa Rin Ang May PLDT Landline
Abangan!
Sangkatutak Na Saya Na May Kasunod Pa!

SHOW STOPPER

It's about time

BENCH/TIME Watch Collection was recently unveiled in a spirited launch at Glorietta 3, Makati City.

Celebrity guests and friends from the press enjoyed a night full of great music and sumptuous food.

Spotted were Bench endorsers Richard Gomez, Lucy Torres-Gomez and their daughter Juliana, Kris Aquino and Richard Gutierrez—who showed off their timepieces for the cameras.

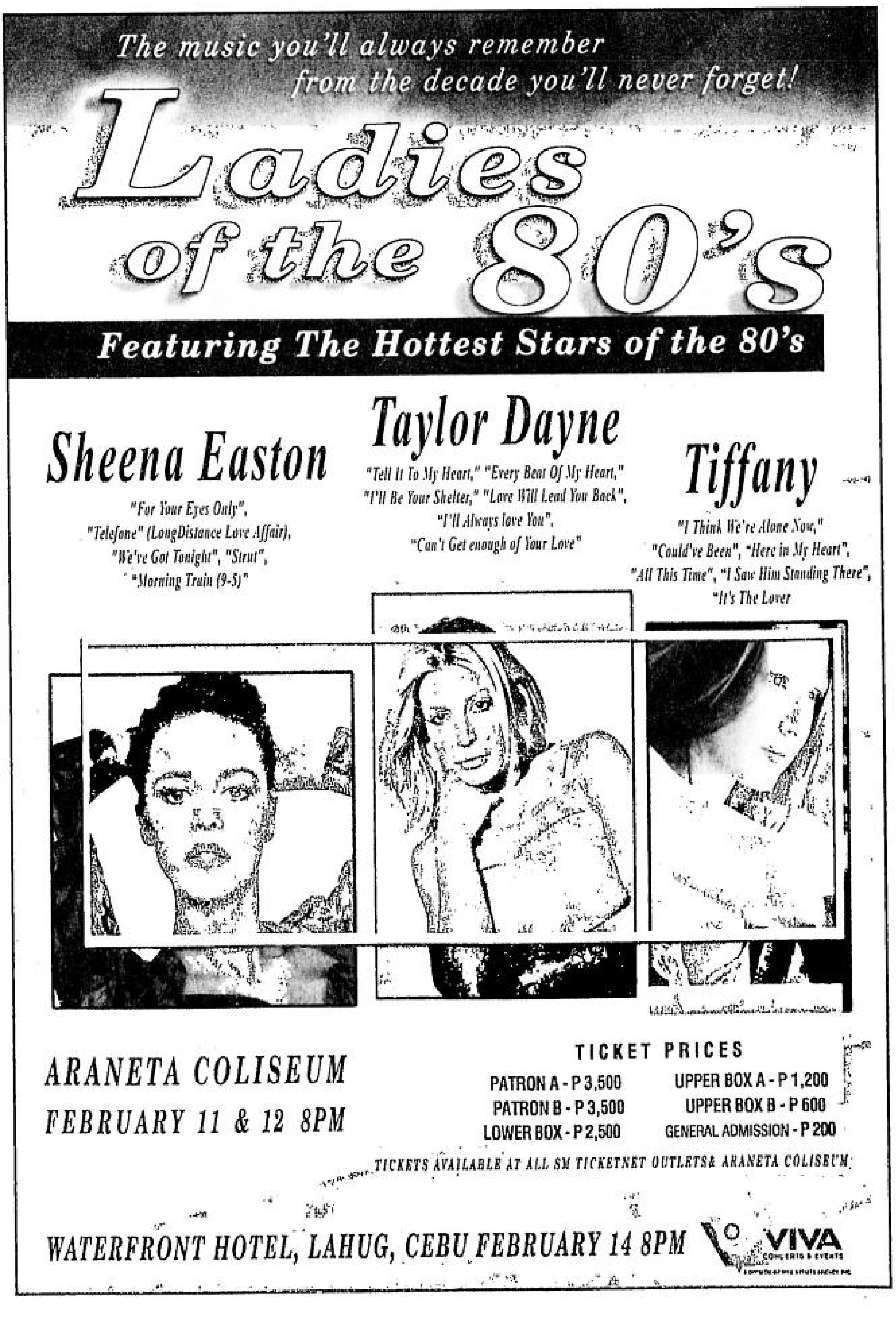
Lively club music was played by DJ Mon Maramba. Hearts raced and energies soared when Royal Rhythm Force, a celebrated Brazilian percussion group, performed as models in baby tees paraded down the red carpet area wearing the watches being showcased.

Afterwards Ben Chan, chair and executive director of Bench, formally presented the collection.

BRENT Javier

LUCY Torres-Gomez with daughter, Juliana

BEN Chan, Marnie Chua and Richard Gomez



The music you'll always remember from the decade you'll never forget!
Ladies of the 80's
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Sunday BIZ

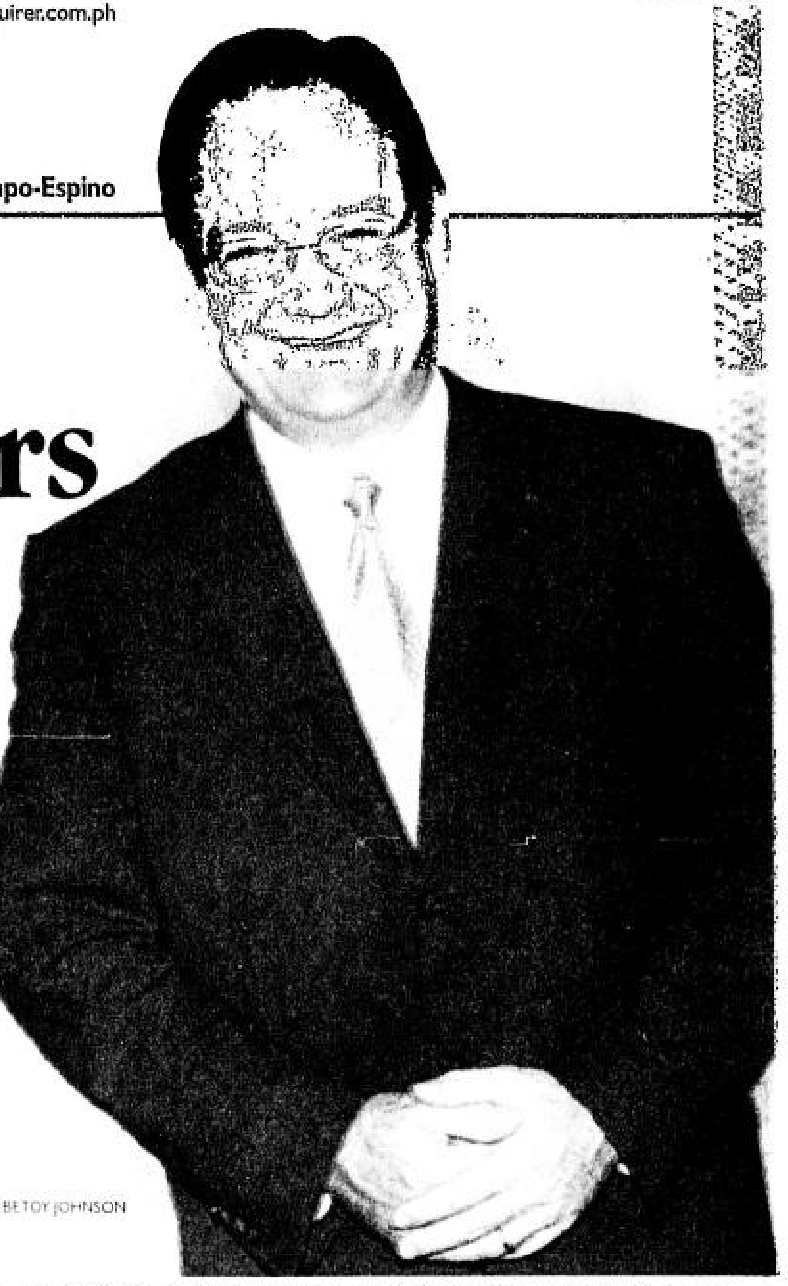
Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

To the rich and educated: Be men and women for others

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

RICARDO Romulo, Octavio Espiritu, John DeGioia and Ambassador Roberto Romulo.

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON



DEGIOIA: This is the challenge we pose on all our students. How do we respond to those of us who live on less than $2 a day?"

SIR WINSTON Churchill famously said that the price of greatness was responsibility.

And according to John J. DeGioia, president of Georgetown University, the main responsibility of the "great" alumni and students that pass through the campus of the United States' oldest Catholic and Jesuit university is to take a good hard look at how they could join in the effort to rescue half of the world's population from poverty's deadly grip.

"This is the challenge we pose on all our students. How do we respond to those of us who live on less than $2 a day?" DeGioia, Georgetown's first lay person to become president, tells SundayBiz.

DeGioia says answering the call for help of the half of the world's population living below the poverty line was the greatest challenge facing leaders today.

Georgetown University was founded in 1789, the same year as the US Constitution was drafted. It produced many of those leaders that are in exalted positions to lead the fight against poverty.

Three of these leaders first came to Georgetown in September 1964: a young man from the city of San Salvador; a young man from a small town outside Texarkana, Arkansas; and a young woman from Manila.

They later became presidents.

Alfredo Cristiani was elected president of El Salvador in 1989; Bill Clinton of the United States in 1992 and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines in 2001.

Thus, DeGioia says it was the university's responsibility to provide students with the right skills and values to encourage them to take active roles in improving the lives of the less privileged.

Be men and women for others, so to speak.

DeGioia said Georgetown shares the burden of that responsibility with other Catholic and Jesuit institutions of higher learning, such as the Ateneo de Manila University.

He brought that point home several times last week when DeGioia gave a series of talks to the Ateneo community. Ateneo president Bienvenido Nebres S.J. sits on the board of Georgetown University.

Like most of the students of Georgetown, DeGioia says those from Ateneo come from the elite and have easy access to the means and the opportunities to get ahead in life.

The call is to encourage these students to share what they have with others who have no access to the same tools that come easily to them, once they get out of school and build careers.

Chances are, by virtue of their privileged position, many will become bank presidents, top lawyers, doctors and economists. But will they stay in their glass towers and turn a deaf ear to pleas for help, or use their knowledge to help others?

Georgetown hopes that by living the tradition of Jesuit education, the bulk of its students would take the more difficult, but morally superior, road.

"All of our students have to exercise competence and develop themselves," De Gioia says, "but they have to acknowledge those who don't have access."

And there are many of them, as the heartbreaking numbers show.

DeGioia says in a speech last Friday at the Ateneo Professional Schools that throughout the world, 47 percent of the world's population or three billion people, live on less than $2 a day.

The very poorest of the poor, mostly living in Sub-Saharan Africa, live on less than $1 a day. And in Botswana, people are expected to live up to only 39 years old. By 2010, it will go down to 27 due to poverty.

About 2.4 billion do not have access to adequate sanitation. Nearly one billion or 15 percent of the world's population cannot read nor write and as much as 7 percent will be infected with diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria or tuberculosis.

"As I said to the undergraduates, this is the world that awaits you; these are the challenges that you will face," DeGioia says in his speech.

But because of the quality education that college graduates get, DeGioia says they are in an enviable position to alter those staggering numbers, especially so for the privileged students of the Ateneo and Georgetown.

"This is your destiny by virtue of the unique and privileged opportunity you have to be here," DeGioia tells the students. "You have a responsibility to ensure that you are prepared to respond to the demands of justice in our world."

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P&G executives Greg Clark, Johnip Cua and Ed Imperial do some spade work to build houses for Baseco residents.

Soap and shampoo firm builds houses for fire victims

NEW YEAR started bright and early for a segment of the fire-stricken Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila, thanks to the generosity of executives and employees of Procter & Gamble (P&G), makers of Safeguard and Pantene among others.

Recently, P&G Philippines president Johnip G. Cua distributed titles to housing units to 48 families, part of a significantly large number rendered homeless by three fires that razed the 57-hectare community last year alone. P&G is also working to donate this year another 48 houses in Cabuyao, Laguna, where its plant facilities are located.

Assisting Cua at the turnover ceremony were P&G's Ed Imperial, general counsel & external relations director for ASEAN-Australasia-India, and Greg Clark, GBS site leader; and Gawad Kalinga executive director Tony Meloto.

P&G executives and employees from its offices in Makati and plant in Cabuyao set aside at least a day's worth of their collective pay to fund the building of the houses in cooperation with Gawad Kalinga, a multi-sectoral partnership dedicated to the vision of eradicating the slum areas in the country. They put in yet another three days of manual labor to install pavers, paint walls and landscape in what is now known as the P&G Village this side of Tondo.

Cua said P&G, which is celebrating its 70th anniversary in the Philippines this year, is committed to nation-building and making Filipino lives better. "Through this project, we at P&G give back to the community part of ourselves to help realize this commitment," he said.

The first 16 of the 48 housing units in the P&G Village were built and awarded on October 19 last year. The rest were completed on the same day that the titles to the next 32 houses were turned over in simple ceremonies.

"This is the greatest gift I have received in my life," said Samar-born Rosie Aunzo, 46, mother of three children and one of the beneficiary-families, in Filipino. "Before, we lived in a cardboard house that was easily blown away by a typhoon."

Double-digit rise in health insurance premiums seen

PREMIUMS for health insurance are going up by 15 to 20 percent globally because of inflation and the rising utilization of health policies—surprisingly by young workers. In addition to the higher incidences of sickness among younger workers, they also tend to be more health conscious and prone to make use of health benefits by consulting with physicians frequently, notes Lawrence Lee, regional managing director of Aon Consulting Asia.

According to an Aon Consulting 2004 Health Care Trend Survey, these trends have led to double-digit increases for all types of medical coverage, a cost borne mostly by employers.

Given these developments, there is an increasing need for companies to explore innovative ways to offer health care to their employees at lower cost, according to James Matti, president and CEO of Ayala Aon Risk Services Inc., Aon's subsidiary in the Philip-

DOUBLE-DIGIT/ B3

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A course under the Training Development and Management Program, offered in partnership with the Philippine Society for Training and Development (PSTD), this course addresses the developmental needs of trainers and HRD professionals whose roles are evolving into consultancy and the opportunity to build the skills necessary to link training and other interventions to business needs.
Schedule: Saturdays, from January 29 to March 5, 2005
Course fee: Php 7,000.00/participant for PSTD members
Php8,000.00/participant for non-members

RETAIL ENVIRONMENT IN THE 21st CENTURY
A course under the Retail Management Program, offered in partnership with the Philippine Retailer Association (PRA).
Topics to be covered;
Understanding the Evolution and Development of the Retail Marketing Function-Influences and Concepts; Retail Competition-Types, Structure and Development; Retail Trends: Store and Non-Store Retailing, International Retailing, IT Developments; Retail Environment: Macro and Micro Factors and their Dynamics; Important Factors that will contribute to the success of Retailing in the future.
Schedule: Saturdays, from January 29 to March 5, 2005
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A course under the Professional Events Management Program.
Course objectives:
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Schedule: Saturdays, from January 29 to February 19, 2005
Course fee: Php 8,000.00/participant inclusive of handouts

INTRODUCTION TO RESTAURANT AND FOOD ENTREPRENEURSHIP
A course under the Restaurant and Food Entrepreneurship, this module provides key concepts on what it means to be an entrepreneur in the Restaurant and Food Service industry.
Schedule: Saturdays, from January 29 to March 5, 2005
Course fee Php 7,000.00/participant inclusive of handouts

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR
A course under the Organizational Development Program, this course develops the participant's understanding of the dynamics of a learning organization and the competency to assess organizational effectiveness.
Schedule: Saturdays, from January 29 to March 5, 2005
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A course under the Marketing Communications Management Program, offered in partnership with the Philippine Association of National Advertisers Foundation (PANAF), this course course provides more information about the brand that a thematic line would otherwise be unable to say in print ads or television commercials. The brand can be portrayed as a catalyst for positive change in lifestyle habit of business or for other reasons that would have an impact on the target market to see the brand in a different light - in many cases to better appreciate its utilitarian purpose.
Schedule: Saturdays, from January 29 to March 5, 2005
Course fee Php 8,500.00/participant for PANAF members and Php9,000.00/participant for non-members

REAL ESTATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
A course under the Real Estate Management Program, offered in partnership with the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Association, Inc. (CREBA).
Topics to be covered;
Nature and Scope of Environmental Planning: Human Settlements; Land Use Planning Concepts: CLUP; Water Supply and Sanitation; Solid Waste Management; Public Domain and Utilization; Protected Areas; Transportation and Infrastructure; Strategic Planning: Urban Planning Context; ECC/ EIS/ EIA/ EGAR in Planning and Development; Plan Implementation in the Philippines; Philippine Planning System; Urban Planning Profession in the Philippines.
Schedule: Saturdays, from January 29 to March 5, 2005
Course fee: Php 7,000.00/participant for CREBA members and Php8,000.00/participant for non-members

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A course under the Purchasing and Supply Chain Management Program, offered in partnership with the Philippine Institute for Supply Management (PISM), this module enables the participants with a deeper understanding of the various techniques and types of forecasting. In addition to this, concepts and methods in supply management's strategic planning shall be discussed.
Schedule: Saturdays, from January 29 to February 19, 2005
Course fee: Php 8,500.00/participant for PISM members and Php9,000.00/participant for non-members

COMPENSATION MANAGEMENT
A course under the Human Resource Management Program, this module develops participant's skills in designing an equitable reward system for an organization given its manpower requirements. The module also shows participants how to monitor the effect of an organization's compensation policies given its goal and compensation philosophy.
Schedule: Saturdays, from January 29 to March 5, 2005
Course fee: Php 7,000.00/participant inclusive of handouts

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Alumni	Can be availed by participants who are Alumni of DLSU system schools	[illegible]

Forget fine dining—go for a casual, relaxed ambience

By Amy R. Remo

UPSCALE Mario's Restaurant was the place to eat steaks and salads in the '70s and '80s.

But the '90s did not prove to be a good decade for the restaurant. From four restaurants, it reduced its branches to two.

Four years ago, however, the second generation took some steps to bring its famous Spanish dishes closer to the growing dining-out market.

In 2001, Mario's Kitchen opened.

Mario's Kitchen carries the classic gastronomical experience of Mario's sans the fine dining concept. It offers Spanish, Continental and Filipino food at affordable prices in a casual, relaxed atmosphere.

It caters mostly to the young urban professionals and even college students.

"We wanted to reach out to more people and open in more places through Mario's Kitchen," says Marlo Benitez Jr., managing director of Mario's Kitchen.

"When we thought of Mario's Kitchen, we were already thinking of franchising it. But it took us almost three years before we actually did it," he adds.

It was only last year that Mario's Kitchen finally opened its doors to franchising.

Finding the right first franchisee was difficult, according to Benitez. Preparations took time. Benitez says they wanted to be sure everything was set—including the system, structure and commissary—before they started granting franchises.

The shift to casual dining from fine dining proved to be a challenge as well.

For instance, Benitez relates he had to convince his parents to be allowed to use the point-of-sales (POS) system in the restaurants as opposed to the traditional cash register system, used for over 30 years in the two branches of Mario's.

Servers were reoriented on how to serve the food. If in Mario's, waiters had to strictly follow a sequence in serving food, in Mario's Kitchen, everything has to be served immediately.

And with the help of franchising consultant Francorp., Mario's Kitchen finally set up its franchise package, which includes comprehensive training and ongoing support, site selection assistance, marketing and promotional support, and grand opening plan and assistance.

BENITEZ and Estrada

Backed with more than 30 years of culinary experience and restaurant management, Mario's offers franchisees not only its trademark cuisine, but also a "tried and tested operation."

Total estimated turnkey investment cost ranges between P4.58 million and P5.34 million for a store size of 80 to 120 sq. m., with an additional investment of about P1.5 million for rent, insurance, training, licenses and permits.

Advantages

Benitez says setting up a franchise has its advantages.

First, they do not need to pour in additional capital and manpower. It may be more expensive to put up a company-owned branch than set up a franchise.

Also, control and focus on each branch can be maintained.

"It's like a technology transfer. We turn over the operations to the franchisee by teaching, training and checking on them every now and then. Their success is our success," says Benitez.

With the franchisee managing the operations, the Mario's Group would not have difficulty in overseeing and ensuring that systems are carried out in line with Mario's Kitchen standards.

First franchisee

In October 2003, Benitez and his family first sat down with their potential franchisee. It was followed by another round of talks in January 2004 before the deal was closed in June.

Benitez says they took a long time because they wanted to make sure that the franchisee understood what handling the Mario's Kitchen franchise was all about.

Jose Ignacio was the first franchisee of Mario's Kitchen.

The restaurant, located at the ground floor of Metrowalk in Meralco Avenue, Ortigas, is being managed by his two daughters, son and their spouses. It opened last October.

Ignacio's son-in-law, Ray Estrada says they chose Mario's because it was consistent with their business philosophy and they shared the same belief regarding consistency.

"The only difference among branches should be the location. But the quality of food, level of service and operations should be a pattern in all the restaurants," says Estrada. "People shouldn't be able to tell if the food came from this or that branch."

Estrada adds that they wanted a restaurant with a commissary, which has primary control of the quality of products and supplies in every branch. Having this system ensures the consistency in the quality of product.

"That's exactly the frame of mind we want our franchisees to have," says Benitez. "Those who don't think this way may start doing things on their own to cut costs, which is dangerous on our part."

"When you come across an enterprise that is a little too eager to share their name to any willing franchisee, you start questioning if they are just out to expand with no regard whether the integrity of their products will be maintained," says Estrada.

In fact, six months of the whole period was spent "getting to know each other."

Plans for 2005

Benitez says for this year, they hope to have six more franchises not only in Metro Manila but also in Baguio, Pampanga and Tagaytay.

In the next five years, Mario's Kitchen targets to have 38 franchises and plans to tap the Visayas region as well.

mario's kitchen

MARIO'S Kitchen's first franchise is located at Metrowalk in Ortigas

Celebrating four million hours of safety

AYALA Land's One Legazpi Park Ayala Land Inc. condominium One Legazpi Park, recently celebrated the achievement of its 4 millionth safe manhour, and was awarded by EEI Corp. and Ayala Land, Inc's senior management, for observance of maximum caution.

The ceremony recognized those involved in the construction of the Ayala Land infrastructure and was attended by EEI and ALI's management officials, employees, and invited guests. It coincided with a Christmas party for employees also held at the project site.

The event emphasizes the significance of safety in every project's construction, according to Ruel Bautista assistant vice president of ALI's Residential Buildings Group. "The reason we celebrate is because we feel that as far as safety is concerned, every one of us has an obligation to make sure One Legazpi Park, or any other project of Ayala Land, is a safe workplace," he explains.

He adds that this can be considered a rare accomplishment that future unit owners will appreciate because their homes will be delivered without unnecessary delays caused by accidents.

"The buyers can expect that the project will be delivered as committed. The commitment is still January 2006, so there are still a lot of things we have to fine tune within the last quarter of 2005 to make sure that the project is ready and completed to our desired quality," says Bautista.

FOR ATTAINING

RUEL Bautista, ALI assistant vice president; Mike Milaor, ALI project director; Albert Saringo, EEI project director; Ping Aliling, JAA associate; Angela de Villa-Lacson, ALI senior vice president; Emilio Tumbocon, ALI vice president

Project director Mike Milaor of ALI's Construction Management Group similarly cites the people involved in making the construction site accident-free at all times.

"All the players have contributed to this achievement at One Legazpi Park, from top management to our consultants, engineers, architects, our contractor EEI Corp. and their subcontractors, supervisors, foremen, lead men, and laborers," he remarks. "This is indeed a collaborative effort of everybody."

In the spirit of holiday fun, construction manager Jose Aliling and Associates also awarded select individuals with special accolades in an afternoon of food, music, and Christmas festivities, which would be the last to be celebrated by the staff at the site as it nears its completion and delivery date.

For more information e-mail *ayalasales@ayalaland.com.ph*, or log on to *www.ayalaland.com.ph*.

RP still world's top abaca producer

A GIRL weaves abaca to make 'sinamay'

NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

LEGAZPI CITY—Two line agency Bicol regional officials involved in the development and promotion of abaca and abaca products agree that the Philippines will still be the dominant producer of abaca in the world, despite the threat of Ecuador.

In a roundtable discussion with the INQUIRER here, Fiber Industry Development Authority regional director Ramon Borromeo says 85 percent of the world demand for raw abaca materials and products is still supplied by the Philippines while the balance comes from Ecuador. Borromeo notes that the world consumption of abaca fiber from 1994 to 2004 averaged about 76,366 metric tons annually. One metric ton is equivalent to 1,000 kg.

Of this, he says the Philippines supplied 64,653 metric tons of abaca fiber, while Ecuador's share was 11,714 metric tons.

Borromeo and Department of Trade and Industry promotion division chief Melchor Aguilar deny reports of a decline in the production of abaca in the Bicol region and the demand for it in the national and international markets.

Aguilar says the demand for abaca in the region has even been on the rise.

"In fact, it even soared compared to Samar and Leyte, as more and more small and medium enterprises have been engaged in abaca craft production and trained in the proper way to produce, process and export their products," Borromeo says.

The fiber from the region is still highly competitive, he adds.

Borromeo says the country produces about 500,557 bales of abaca every year. (One bale is equivalent to 125 kilograms).

Of this total production, Bicol contributes more than 162,000 bales or about 20,662 metric tons, which was 31 percent of the total abaca produced by the country from 1994 to 2003, he adds.

Bicol's production rose to more than 25,000 metric tons in 2004. Of the 20,662 metric tons of total abaca production in Bicol, 94.7 percent have consistently remained of good quality.

Other areas with shares in the country's total abaca production are Samar, southern Leyte, southern Mindanao, and some parts of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

Southern Leyte's annual production used to be 230,000 bales. However, it is now declining, Borromeo adds.

The Fida official discloses that both Samar and Leyte are suffering from rampant attacks of viruses that affect most of the major abaca plantations, resulting in low production this year, while Bicol continues to produce more.

It was in the years 1997, 1999 and 2001 that a virus massively attacked abaca plantations and somehow affected the productions of Bicol and Eastern Visayas.

But production easily bounced back as Fida was able to control the spread of the virus, Borromeo says.

Areas planted to abaca in the country from 1994 to 2004 were about 114,168.86 hectares.

Bicol's share was 44,077.69 hectares, or about 38 percent of the total abaca area in the country, while Eastern Visayas contributed 33,369.3 ha, or about 29 percent.

Low utilization

Interestingly, only about 69 percent of the abaca raw materials have been utilized for handicrafts by local producers and exporters, Borromeo notes.

Most of the abaca produced have been exported as raw materials, which are being used as ropes, tea bags, currency and napkins, among other utility products, owing to the durability and strength of the fiber.

Borromeo says Bicol has remained one of the top, if not the consistent, abaca fiber producer in the country not only of raw materials but also of various processed abaca products that are exported to England, United States, Canada, China, India, Thailand, Japan and other European and Asian countries.

Since the Spanish period, Bicol, along with Samar and Leyte, has been the top region in the production and sale of processed abaca, both here and abroad, the Fida official says.

But it was in the '60s that Bicol became the most dominant producer of abaca fiber being used for holiday decors, gift wares, accessories and the famous native bags and dresses being endorsed by actress-singer Jennifer Lopez.

Since the late '80s, he said, the region has been faced by the problem of viruses, which caused the limited abaca production.

Generating more jobs

The assistance of Fida and DTI has paid well.

Aside from helping some of the abaca producers in the region to become established and big-time exporters of abaca-made handicrafts, the two agencies are also developing small and medium enterprises engaged in abaca to also become leading exporters in the next five years.

The assistance comes in the form of market development, product development, trainings and trade facilitation.

The DTI has encouraged local handicraft makers to join national and international trade fairs as well as different regional and national festivals, where spot sales or purchase orders for handicrafts are usually sealed.

"The more sales the handicraft enterprises have, [the] more jobs and income for village folk, who plant and harvest abaca, extract the fiber, prepare the semi-finished products and make the finished products on sub-contractual basis," Aguilar says.

This, he says, spells progress for those who live in barangays that are within the economic poverty zones in the region.

Aguilar added that the DTI is encouraging abaca farmers to be more aware of the value-added and market opportunities by processing their own abaca products by themselves.

Developing the skills of villagers on abaca craft making, however, has it disadvantage too, the DTI official says.

With the country's openness to free trade, other Asian countries are now imitating Philippine handicrafts and sell them back at much lower prices, Aguilar noted.

"It's sad but true that many Filipino abaca craft makers have been pirated by China, Thailand, India, and even by America and Ecuador to make these products," he discloses.

But, he says, the government could not do anything as it could mean a greener pasture for these skilled workers or professional growth for them. *Gil Francis G. Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Future landmark for new Beijing business district

By Sandra Garcia
Contributor

THE WANDA Plaza Beijing development

THE WANDA Plaza Beijing development, one of the largest ever integrated urban development projects undertaken in Beijing, involving the redevelopment of 480,000 square meters of prime land in Beijing's central business district, is set to change the face of Beijing's central business district.

The project involves the construction of office towers, a major retail center, restaurants, entertainment complexes, residential apartments, and the 5-star Sofitel Wanda Beijing hotel.

The 453-room Sofitel Wanda Beijing will be built according to new national "Platinum 5-star" hotel standards and will be an integral part of the Wanda Plaza development. The hotel and Plaza will be located near CCTV's Beijing bureau, Traders Centre, the Motorola Building, Hewlett Packard Building and will be home to the Time Warner office and a Walmart.

The hotel will also have 50 long-stay apartments, four Sofitel executive floors with adjacent Sofitel executive lounge, a Sofitel library and non-smoking floors, a rarity in Beijing. Since every floor offers each room category, Sofitel executive room guests can enjoy a smoke-free stay should they choose.

The Sofitel Wanda Beijing will provide important tourism infrastructure in preparation for the 2008 Olympic Games, and builds on the growing presence of Accor hotels in China.

The other hotels are the Sofitel Wanda Chengdu, which opened in 2003, the Sofitel Boao on Hainan, Sofitel Jin Jiang Oriental Pudong and Sofitel Royal Lagoon Dongguan as part of what is quickly becoming China's most recognizable luxury hotel brand.

For feedback, please e-mail sdg1402@yahoo.com

Double-digit rise . . .

From page B2

pines. Pushing disease prevention programs that help contain potential illnesses is one way to do it, he says.

Companies have also innovated by administering their own health funds. Dispensing advice and other services to companies who have opted to use self-administered health funds are among the services offered by Aon, the world's second largest insurance broker with 550 offices distributed throughout 120 countries.

Insurance brokers like Ayala Aon have the flexibility of comparing insurance packages and offering out-of-the-box solutions to clients. The latter includes managing online systems that administer and analyze trends in employee claims. "It's our business to help clients achieve cost-efficiency and to enhance workforce productivity as part of our employee benefits services," says Matti.

In Hong Kong, according to Lee, Aon sponsors annual flu vaccination shots for their staff with the onset of the cold weather. In the Philippines, Ayala Aon introduced a Wellness Program for its medical policy holders in an attempt to contain rising health-related costs. It conducts seminars and regularly disseminates health advisories on relevant topics such as stress management, cardiovascular problems, fitness, sore eyes, proper weight management, colds and vaccines.

More importantly, it pushes health care members to have an annual physical check-up going to the extent of arranging schedules and check-in procedures for plan holders. A regular physical exam often uncovers health problems at an early stage or while the disease is still manageable.

The most common illnesses reported by Ayala Aon-serviced companies include cardiovascular, upper respiratory, and gastro-intestinal problems. Matti relates that Ayala Aon has invested heavily in a comprehensive computer system that allows on time-claims monitoring which speeds up the reimbursement of health-related claims. All filed claims can be monitored from the time it was received until settlement. Clients can promptly access their medical claims status online.

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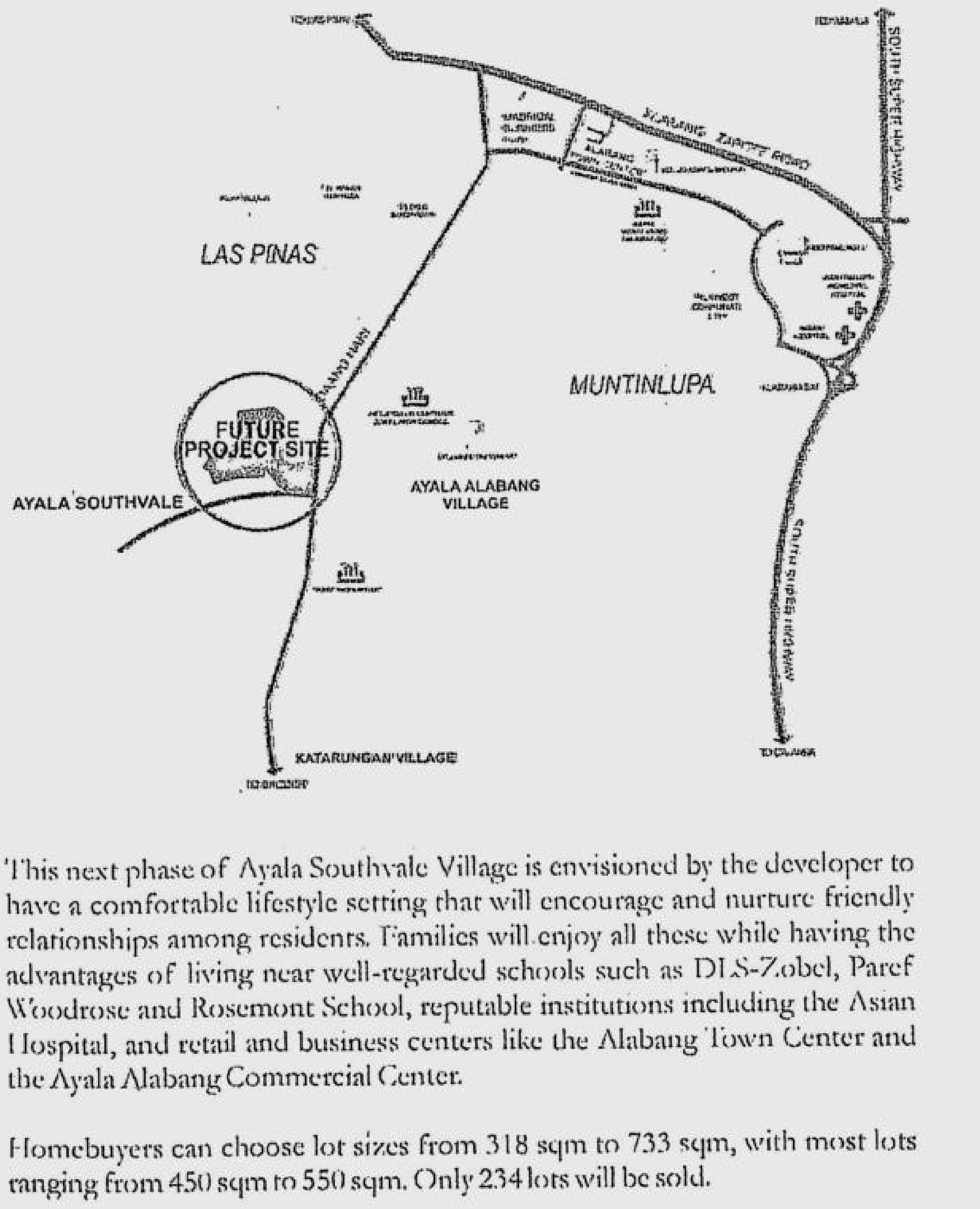
Eagerly Awaited Phase of Ayala Southvale Soon to be Ready

This year, Ayala Land Inc. will launch the new phase of Ayala Southvale Village. Compared to previous larger developments like Ayala Alabang, which has an area of 600 hectares, the new 20-hectare subdivision within Ayala Southvale is masterplanned to be a residential subdivision with lots for single-detached houses and with direct access through Daang Hari Road.



This next phase of Ayala Southvale Village is envisioned by the developer to have a comfortable lifestyle setting that will encourage and nurture friendly relationships among residents. Families will enjoy all these while having the advantages of living near well-regarded schools such as DLS-Zobel, Paref Woodrose and Rosemont School, reputable institutions including the Asian Hospital, and retail and business centers like the Alabang Town Center and the Ayala Alabang Commercial Center.

Homebuyers can choose lot sizes from 318 sqm to 733 sqm, with most lots ranging from 450 sqm to 550 sqm. Only 234 lots will be sold.

For inquiries about **Ayala Land Inc.** properties, please **call 841-5847** or **email asvinquiry@ayalaland.com.ph**.

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board Resolution No. R-771
Series of 2004

RULES ON THE REGISTRATION AND SUPERVISION OF HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS

Whereas, Section 26 of Republic Act No. 8763 transferred to the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) the powers, authorities and responsibilities vested in the Home Insurance and Guaranty Corporation, now the Home Guaranty Corporation, with respect to homeowners associations under Republic Act No. 580, as amended by Executive Order No. 535, series of 1979;

NOW, THEREFORE, the following rules governing the registration of homeowners associations are hereby promulgated:

PART I
PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Rule I
Definition of Terms

Section 1. **Definition of terms.** – For purposes of these Rules, unless the context otherwise provides, the following terms shall be interpreted to mean as follows:

- a. "HLURB" shall refer to the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board;
- b. "HIGC" shall refer to the Home Insurance and Guaranty Corporation, now the Home Guaranty Corporation;
- c. "SEC" shall refer to the Securities and Exchange Commission;
- d. "Homeowners Association" shall refer to an association or organization that is registered with the HLURB, the HIGC, or the SEC in accordance with law and is composed primarily of –
  - i. Homeowners and lot buyers/owners in subdivision projects within the purview of Presidential Decree No. 957 and other related laws;
  - ii. Awardees, lessees, and occupants in private or government housing or relocation projects and other urban estates;
  - iii. Informal settlers intending to be future beneficiaries or awardees of ownership rights over the land they lease or occupy;
- e. "Regional Office" shall refer to the HLURB Regional Office having administrative supervision over the site of a Homeowners Association;
- f. "Regional Officer" shall refer to the head of a Regional Office;
- g. "Application" shall refer to an application for the issuance or registration of a certificate of incorporation of a Homeowners Association under these rules;
- h. "Applicant" shall refer to a Homeowners Association that files an application for the issuance of a certificate of incorporation under these Rules;
- i. "Certificate of Incorporation" shall refer to the certificate issued to a Homeowners Association that has completed all the requirements for registration. The term includes certificates of registration issued to a Homeowners Association by the HIGC and the SEC prior to the effectivity of these rules;
- j. "Federation" shall refer to an organization of Homeowners Associations that is created and registered to pursue common goals beneficial to the interests of the constituent associations and members thereof;
- k. "Independent Auditor" shall refer to a licensed or certified public accountant accredited by a professional organization, such as but not limited to the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants and other related professional organization.
- l. "Information Sheet" shall refer to a document that contains the name of the Homeowners Association, its principal office address, the names of its board of directors or trustees and their addresses, and the names of its officers and their positions; and
- m. "Accounting Period" shall refer to the fiscal or calendar year adopted by a Homeowners Association in the recording and reporting of its financial transactions which commences upon its actual operation and ends on, at least, the twelfth (12th) month of any given year.

Section. 2. **Construction.** – These rules shall be liberally construed to carry out the objectives of Republic Act No. 8763 and Executive Order Nos. 535, series of 1979, and 90, series of 1986, in relation to Presidential Decree No. 902-A, the Corporation Code of the Philippines, and other related laws.

PART II
REGISTRATION

Rule II
Application for Issuance of Certificate of Incorporation

Section 1. **Filing of application.** – An applicant shall, after payment of the required filing fees, submit to the Regional Office its articles of incorporation, duly notarized and signed on each and every page thereof by all the incorporators consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than fifteen (15) natural persons.

The articles of incorporation shall be accompanied by the following notarized documents:

- a. Written undertaking by the Homeowners Association to:
  - i. Change the name of the Homeowners Association in the event that another person, firm or entity has acquired a prior right to the use of said name or one similar thereto;
  - ii. Comply with the rules and regulations issued by the HLURB;
- b. Information sheet;
- c. List of the members of the Homeowners Association;
- d. Certification as to the existence or absence of any other Homeowners Association(s) in the subdivision or territorial jurisdiction of the Homeowners Association; and the name and address of the nearest existing Homeowners Association, if any; and
- e. Authorization by the incorporators for the representative of the Homeowners Association to transact/follow-up its registration application with the Regional Office.

Section 2. **Contents of Articles of Incorporation.** – The articles of incorporation of a Homeowners Association shall contain substantially the following matters:

- a. The name of the Homeowners Association;
- b. The specific purpose or purposes for which the Homeowners Association is being incorporated. Where a corporation has more than one stated purpose, the articles of incorporation shall state which is the primary purpose and which is/are the secondary purpose or purposes;
- c. The place where the principal office of the Homeowners Association is located;
- d. The term for which the Homeowners Association is to exist;
- e. The names, nationalities and residences of the incorporators;
- f. The number of directors or trustees, which shall not be less than five (5) nor more than fifteen (15);
- g. The names, nationalities and residences of persons who shall act as directors or trustees until the first regular directors or trustees are duly elected and qualified;
- h. The amount of its capital, the names, nationalities and residences of the contributors and the amount contributed by each; and
- i. Such other matters as are not inconsistent with law and which the incorporators may deem necessary and convenient.

Section 3. **Additional requirements.** – If the application refers to a self-help housing project or one undertaken under the Group Land Acquisition and Development program (GLAD), Community Mortgage Program (CMP), or other similar land tenurial assistance programs, the applicant shall, in addition to the documents mentioned in Section 1 above, submit the following:

- a. Location plan and vicinity map of the project, whether on-site or off-site, duly signed and certified by a geodetic engineer;
- b. Notarized list of officers and members stating the nature of their occupancy, whether as owner or tenant;
- c. Certified true copy of the original or transfer certificate of title issued not later than thirty (30) days before the date of application; and
- d. Duplicate original copies of the notarized letter of intent to sell, contract to sell, deed of absolute sale, or memorandum of agreement between the landowner and Association.

Pending the issuance by the landowner of the letter of intent or any deed stated above to the Association, the Regional Office may issue a certification stating that the Homeowners Association has filed an application for registration.

Section 4. **Additional requirements for federating, consolidating, or merging association.** – In addition to the requirements under Section 1 above, federating, consolidating, or merging Homeowners Association shall submit the following documents in accordance with Rule VII hereof:

- a. Plan of Federation, consolidation or merger, including a location and vicinity map of the consolidating and merging association;
- b. Records of the approval by majority vote of each of the board of directors or trustees of the constituent association of the plan; and
- c. Articles of merger, articles of consolidation, or articles of Federation.

Rule III
Action on Application

Section 1. **Deficient or incomplete application.** – If an application is incomplete, defective, or not in accordance with law or these rules, the Regional Office shall send a written notice to the applicant describing in concise terms the incomplete or defective submissions.

Section 2. **Refusal and denial of application.** – The application shall be denied or refused if the applicant fails to comply with the requirements stated in the notice of deficiency within thirty (30) days from receipt thereof. A similar action shall be taken if the applicant fails to comply with the other requirements established under these rules or provisions of pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

Rule IV
Certificate of Incorporation

Section 1. **Issuance of certificate of incorporation.** – If the application is complete and in accordance with law and these rules, the Regional Office shall issue a certificate of incorporation to the applicant.

Section 2. **Effect of issuance of a certificate of incorporation.** – upon issuance of a certificate of incorporation, the applicant shall become a body corporate with a personality separate and distinct from those of its individual members.

Rule V
By-Laws

Section 1. **Adoption and filing of by-laws.** – Within one (1) month after receipt of official notice of the issuance of its certificate of incorporation by the Regional Office, the Homeowners Association shall, by the affirmative vote of at least a majority of its members, adopt a code of by-laws for its government. The by-laws shall be signed by the members voting for them and shall be kept in the principal office of the association, subject to the inspection of its members during office hours. A copy thereof, duly certified to by a majority of the directors or trustees countersigned by the secretary of the Homeowners Association, shall be filed with the Regional Office. The same shall be attached to the original articles of incorporation.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding paragraph, by-laws may be adopted and filed prior to the issuance of the certificate of incorporation. In such a case, the by-laws shall be approved and signed by all the incorporators and submitted to the Regional Office, together with the articles of incorporation.

Section 2. **Contents of by-laws.** – The by-laws of a Homeowners Association may provide for the following:

- a. The time, place and manner of calling and conducting regular or special meetings of the directors or trustees;
- b. The time and manner of calling and conducting regular or special meetings of the members;
- c. The required quorum in meetings of members and the manner of voting therein;
- d. Required quorum in meeting of board of directors or trustees;
- e. The form for proxies of members and the manner of voting them;
- f. Extent and actions for limiting, broadening or denying the right to vote, including rights to vote by proxy;
- g. Designation of conditions and time when voting rights may be exercised;
- h. Designation of the presiding officer at meetings of the directors or trustees, as well as the members;
- i. The qualifications, duties and compensation of directors or trustees, officers and employees;
- j. The time for holding the annual election of directors or trustees and the mode or manner of giving notice thereof;
- k. Manner of election and term of office of directors or trustees;
- l. The manner of election or appointment and the term of office of all officers other than directors or trustees;
- m. The penalties for violation of the by-laws;
- n. Transfer and termination of membership in the Homeowners Association;
- o. Creation of election, grievance and audit committee, and such other committees that the Homeowners Association may deem necessary;
- p. Dues and fees to be imposed on a regular basis and the necessity and manner that the same are imposed or increased;
- q. Special assessments; and
- r. Such other matters as may be necessary for the proper or convenient transaction of its corporate business and affairs.

Section 3. **Certificate of filing of by-laws.** – The Regional Office shall issue a certificate of filing of by-laws if it finds that the by-laws submitted by the applicant or Homeowners Association are not inconsistent with law and the prescribed form. The date of submission of the by-laws shall be recorded in the registry book.

Section 4. **Effectivity of by-laws.** – In all cases, by-laws shall be effective only upon the issuance by the Regional Office of the abovestated certificate.

Section. 5. **Powers and attributes of a Homeowners Association.** – The powers and attributes of the Homeowners Association are those stated in its by-laws, which shall include the following:

- a. To adopt and amend by-laws, rules and regulations;
- b. To adopt an annual program of activities and the corresponding budget therefor, subject to the limitations and conditions imposed under the by-laws;
- c. To impose and collect reasonable fees on members and non-member residents who avail of or benefit from the facilities and services of the association, to defray necessary operational expenses, subject to the limitations and conditions imposed under the law, regulations of the Board and the association by-laws;
- d. To sue and be sued in its name;
- e. To enter into contracts for basic and necessary services for the general welfare of the association and its members;
- f. To acquire, hold, encumber and convey in its own name any right, title or interest to any property;
- g. To impose reasonable sanctions upon its members for violations and/or non-compliance with the association by laws; and upon non-member residents by reason of any act and/or omission prejudicial to the interest of the association or its members; and
- h. To exercise other powers necessary for the governance and operation of the association.

Rule VI
Amendment of Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws

Section 1. **Amendment of articles of incorporation and/or by-laws; supporting documents.** – A Homeowners Association may file with the Regional Office a written application to amend its articles of incorporation and/or its by-laws.

- a. The application to amend the Articles of Incorporation of a Homeowners Association shall be accompanied by the following:
  - i. Such articles as amended wherein the change or changes shall be indicated;
  - ii. Notarized certificate of the board of directors or trustees attesting that the amendment was approved by majority vote of the board;
  - iii. Notarized certificate of the secretary of the Homeowners Association attesting that the amendments were approved by 2/3 votes of the members of the Homeowners Association; and
  - iv. Minutes of both meetings called for the purpose.
- b. The application to amend the by-laws shall be accompanied by the following:
  - i. The original and the amended or new by-laws;
  - ii. Notarized certificate of the board of directors or trustees attesting that the amendment of or the new by-laws was approved by majority vote of the board;
  - iii. Notarized certificate of the secretary of the Homeowners Association attesting that the amendment or new by-laws were approved by 2/3 votes of the members of the Homeowners Association; and
  - iv. Minutes of both meetings called for the purpose.

Section 2. **Change of name.** – A Homeowners Association may change its name by filing a written application for the purpose with the Regional Office. The application shall be accompanied by a resolution of the board of directors or trustees duly ratified by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the association members, and a written undertaking to adopt another name in the event that a person, firm or association has acquired a prior right to the Homeowners Association's name or one similar to it.

Section 3. **Issuance of amended certificate.** – If the application to amend the articles of incorporation and/or its by-laws is not contrary to law or public policy and does not adversely affect any interest, the Regional Office shall issue an appropriate amended certificate of incorporation or certificate of filing of amended by-laws, as the case may be.

When a change in the corporate name is approved, the Regional Office shall issue an amended certificate of incorporation under the amended name.

Rule VII
Merger, Consolidation and Federation

Section 1. **Plan of merger, consolidation or Federation.** – The board of directors or trustees of two or more Homeowners Associations may each approve, by majority vote, a plan of merger, consolidation or Federation setting forth the following:

- a. The names of the Homeowners Associations that will merge, consolidate or federate, which are hereinafter referred to as the constituent Homeowners Associations;
- b. The terms of the merger, consolidation or Federation and the mode of carrying the same into effect;
- c. A statement of the changes, if any, in the articles of incorporation of the surviving Homeowners Association, in case of merger; and, with respect to the consolidated Homeowners Association in case of consolidation, all the statements required to be set forth in the articles of incorporation for Homeowners Associations;
- d. A statement in the articles of incorporation of the Federation specifying the commonality of purpose and interests of the constituent Homeowners Associations, as well as the rights, obligations, and extent of powers of the Federation over the said associations;
- e. Vicinity map showing that the territory of the Homeowners Associations proposing to merge or consolidate are contiguous to one another; and,
- f. Such other provisions with respect to the proposed merger, consolidation or Federation as are deemed necessary or desirable.

Section 2. **Approval of plan by Homeowners Association members.** – After approval by majority vote of each of the board of directors or trustees of the constituent Homeowners Associations of the plan of merger, consolidation or Federation, the same shall be submitted for approval by the members of each Homeowners Association at separate meetings duly called for the purpose. The notice of such meetings shall be given to all the members of the respective associations, at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting, either personally or by registered mail. Said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and shall include a copy or a summary of the plan of merger, consolidation or Federation. The affirmative vote representing at least two-thirds (2/3) of the total membership of each Homeowners Association shall be necessary for the approval of such plan.

Section 3. **Amendment of approved plan of merger, consolidation or Federation.** – An approved plan of merger, consolidation or Federation may be amended by majority vote of the respective board of directors or trustees of all the constituent Homeowners Associations and ratified by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of each constituent association. Such plan, together with any amendment, shall be considered as the agreement of merger, consolidation or Federation.

Section 4. **Articles of merger, consolidation or Federation.** – After the approval by the members as required by the preceding Sections, the article of merger, consolidation or of Federation, as the case may be, shall be executed by each of the constituent Homeowners Associations, and signed by the president or vice-president and certified by the secretary or assistant secretary of each association.

Section 5. **Contents of articles of merger, consolidation or Federation.** – The articles of merger, consolidation or Federation shall set forth the following:

- a. The plan of the merger, consolidation or Federation;
- b. The number of constituent Homeowners Associations; and
- c. As to each constituent Homeowners Association, the number of members voting for and against such plan, respectively.

Section 6. **Submission of articles of merger, consolidation or Federation.** – The articles of merger, consolidation or Federation, signed and certified as herein above required, shall be submitted to the Regional Office in three copies for approval, together with the –

- a. Plan of Federation, consolidation or merger, including a location and vicinity plan of the consolidating and merging Homeowners Associations;
- b. Records of the approval by majority vote of each of the board of directors or trustees of the constituent Homeowners Associations of the plans.

Section 7. **Issuance of certificate of merger, consolidation or Federation.** – If the Regional Office finds that the merger, consolidation or Federation of the Homeowners Associations is not inconsistent with existing laws, it shall issue a certificate of merger, consolidation or Federation, at which time the merger, consolidation or Federation shall be deemed effective.

However, if the Regional Office has reason to believe that the proposed merger, consolidation or Federation is contrary to or inconsistent with existing laws, it shall set a hearing to give the Homeowners Associations concerned the opportunity to be heard. The notice of hearing shall be given to each constituent Homeowners Association at least two (2) weeks before said hearing. The Regional Office shall thereafter proceed to determine whether or not to approve the merger, consolidation or Federation.

Section 8. **Effects of merger, consolidation, or Federation.** – The merger, consolidation or Federation shall have the following effects:

- a. The constituent Homeowners Associations shall become a single association which, in the case of merger, shall be the surviving association designated in the plan of merger and in the case of consolidation, the consolidated Homeowners Association designated in the plan of consolidation.
- b. The separate existence of the constituent Homeowners Associations shall cease, except that of the surviving or the consolidated Homeowners Association.
- c. The surviving or the consolidated Homeowners Association shall possess all the rights, privileges, immunities and powers of each of the constituent associations and all property, real or personal, and all receivables due on whatever account, and other chooses in action, and all and every other interest of, or belonging to, or due to each constituent Homeowners Association, shall be deemed transferred to and vested in such surviving or consolidated Homeowners Association without further act or deed.
- d. The surviving or consolidated Homeowners Association shall be responsible and liable for all the liabilities and obligations of each of the constituent Homeowners Associations in the same manner as if such surviving or consolidated Homeowners Association had itself incurred such liabilities or obligations; and any pending claim, action or proceeding brought by or against any of such constituent Homeowners Association may be prosecuted by or against the surviving or consolidated Homeowners Association. Such merger or consolidation shall not impair the rights of creditors or liens upon the property of any of such constituent Homeowners Association.
- e. The Federation shall have a separate and distinct legal personality from that of its constituent Homeowners Associations and shall have such powers over its member associations as may be set forth in its approved articles of incorporation and by-laws. However, the creation of a Federation, shall not affect the juridical personality of the constituent associations

Rule VIII
Disaffiliation from a Federation

Section 1. **Disaffiliation from the Federation.** – A Homeowners Association may, by a resolution passed by the majority of its board of directors or trustees, and duly approved by at least two-thirds (2/3) of its total membership, sever its membership from the Federation. The disaffiliation shall take effect after a written notice of disaffiliation is filed with the Federation and the Regional Office.

Section 2. **Memorandum of disaffiliation.** – Upon receipt of the notice of disaffiliation by a constituent Homeowners Association, the Regional Office shall enter a memorandum thereof in the records of the Federation and said association, a copy of which shall be furnished the concerned parties.

Section 3. **Effects of disaffiliation.** – Upon disaffiliation, the Federation loses its powers and privileges as set forth in the articles of incorporation and by-laws over the Homeowners Association, while the Homeowners Association loses its entitlement to the rights and privileges arising from membership in the Federation. The disaffiliation shall be without prejudice to the settlement of any obligation incurred by the Federation and constituent Homeowners Associations against each other.

Rule IX
Segregation from an Association

Section 1. **Segregation.** – A group of members of a Homeowners Association may form a new Association by filing a verified petition with the Regional Office on the following grounds:

- a. The area of the project or the membership of the existing Homeowners Association has reached a size or number that renders it extremely difficult or impracticable to provide efficient delivery of services to all its members, Provided that:
  - i. The petitioners are residents of a contiguous area and do not exceed half of the membership of the existing Homeowners Association;
  - ii. The remaining members of the existing Homeowners Association reside in a contiguous area; and
- b. The existing Homeowners Association is serving several or all phases of a subdivision project and the petitioners are residents of one phase or two or more contiguous phases of said project, Provided that:
  - i. Where the facilities of the subdivision project are commonly

shared by all the phases of a subdivision project, the existing as well as the proposed Homeowners Associations shall have the right to the use of said facilities and shall proportionately share in the expenses for its maintenance and the earnings derived or losses incurred from the operation thereof; and,

ii. The remaining members of the existing Homeowners Association reside in a contiguous area;

As used herein, "contiguous area or phase" shall refer to two or more subdivisions or community housing projects or phases thereof that are physically related or linked by a shared infrastructure and well-defined adjoining or common boundaries, whether fully or partially;

Section 2. **Action on petition for segregation.** – The petition shall be granted by the Regional Office if it finds that the segregation is beneficial to the general welfare and interest of the members and the new Homeowners Association that may be formed can exist as an independent entity.

Rule X
Registry Book

Section 1. **Registry Book**. – The Regional Office shall keep and maintain a registry book where the following information shall be entered:

a. Homeowners Association docket number;
b. Name of the Homeowners Association;
c. Location of the project/area and its office address;
d. Date of issuance/registration of certificate of incorporation and certificate of filing of the by-laws;
e. Serial number of the certificates;
f. Dates of release of the certificate of incorporation and certificate of filing the by-laws; and
g. The name of the person to whom the certificates were released.

Rule XI
Enrollment of Homeowners Association with Certificate of Incorporation/Registration Issued by SEÇ/HIGC

Section 1. **Enrollment of Certificate of Incorporation/Registration.** – Within one (1) year after these rules take effect, a Homeowners Association that holds a certificate of incorporation/registration issued by the HIGC or the SEC and has no record in the registry book of the Regional Office shall, upon payment of required filing fees, enroll its certificate of incorporation/registration with the Regional Office, together with its articles of incorporation and by-laws, as certified by the HIGC/SECTION.

Upon receipt of the application and payment of the required filing fees, the Regional Office shall enter in its registry book the name of the Homeowners Association and issue a certification to that effect.

Section 2. **Effect of enrollment**. – Upon issuance by the Regional Office of the above certification, the Homeowners Association shall henceforth be under the supervision of HLURB and shall comply with policies and guidelines on homeowners association enunciated under these rules.

Section 3. **Effect of failure to enroll**. – A Homeowners Association that fails to enroll as required in the preceding Section shall have no legal standing to sue before the HLURB, and to avail of the support services of the Board. It may nevertheless be sued before the HLURB by its members or other interested parties for non-compliance with existing laws and regulations. The same failure shall be a ground for the suspension or revocation of its certificate of incorporation/ registration.

The officers of Homeowners Associations who are not enrolled may be held personally liable for the obligations and liabilities incurred by the de facto association.

PART III
POST-REGISTRATION

Rule XII
Post-Incorporation/Registration Requirements

Section 1. **Requirements after incorporation/registration.** – Within thirty (30) days from the issuance or registration of the certificate of incorporation, the Homeowners Association shall submit the following to the Regional Office:

a. Tax Identification Number.
b. BIR Certification/Official BIR Stamps or Receipts.

Section 2. **Books required for stamping.** – In addition to the preceding requirements and within the same period, the Homeowners Association shall submit the following books in blank forms to the Regional Office for stamping or marking as official association books:

a. Membership book which shall contain the list of all original and additional members of the Homeowners Association duly attested to by the secretary of the board. The names of the replaced members shall be indicated in an appropriate portion of the book;
b. Minutes book which shall contain the minutes of all meetings of members, and of the board of directors or trustees, in which shall be set forth in detail the time and place of holding the meeting, how authorized, the notice given, whether the meeting was regular or special, or if special, its object, those present and absent, and every act done or ordered done at the meeting;
c. Cash book; and,
d. Ledger and journal.

Section 3. **Homeowners Association books to be kept**. – Every Homeowners Association shall keep and carefully preserve a record of all transactions and minutes of all meetings of members, or of the board of directors or trustees, in which shall be set forth in detail the time and agenda for holding the meeting, how authorized, the notice given, whether the meeting was regular or special, if special its object, those present and absent, and every act done or ordered done at the meeting.

Section 4. **Additional requirement for housing projects under Group Land Acquisition and Development program (GLAD), Community Mortgage Program (CMP) and similar projects**. – For housing projects under Group Land Acquisition and Development program (GLAD), Community Mortgage Program (CMP) and similar land tenurial assistance programs, the Homeowners Association shall also submit to the Regional Office the development permit for the project issued by the local government unit or the HLURB, as the case may be, within ninety (90) days from the issuance or registration of the certificate of incorporation.

Rule XIII
Submission of Reports

Section 1. **Annual report.** – Within forty-five (45) days from the close of the accounting period, the Homeowners Association shall submit to the Regional Office the following books and documents concerning its operations during the preceding accounting period:

a. General information sheet;
b. Most recent audited financial statement; and
c. Certified true copy of the membership book and the minutes book as certified by the association secretary;

In case of Community Mortgage Program projects (CMP), Group Land Acquisition and Development projects (GLAD), and other similar land tenurial government-assisted projects, the Homeowners Association shall also submit the master list of qualified beneficiaries as certified by the assisting government agency.

Section 2. **Minutes of elections.** – Within fifteen (15) days from the date of its regular or special election, the Homeowners Association shall submit the following to the Regional Office:

a. Attendance sheet signed by the members and attested by the Secretary;
b. Notarized report of the committee of the Homeowners Association which supervised the election;
c. Proof of notice of election to the members;
d. Election returns duly certified by the Association's committee on election; and,
e. Master list of qualified voters as certified by the Association secretary and treasurer.

Section 3. **Minutes of meeting for the election of officers**. - The Homeowners Association shall submit to the Regional Office the minutes of the meeting of the board of directors or trustees for the election of the officers of the Homeowners Association within fifteen (15) days from the date of the meeting.

Rule XIV
Elections

Section 1. **Holding of elections.** – A Homeowners Association shall hold regular membership meetings or elections on the time or date set forth in its By-laws.

Section 2. **Non-holding or postponement of regular or special membership meeting or election.** - In case a regular or special membership meeting or elections of a Homeowners Association is not held or is postponed, the following shall be submitted by the Association to the Regional Office:

a. Notice of postponement of the regular or special membership meeting;
b. Affidavit of non-holding of regular membership meeting stating valid reasons therefor; and
c. Affidavit of non-holding of regular elections stating categorically the reasons why no regular elections were conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Association by-laws.

In all the above cases, the notice or affidavit shall be executed by the secretary of the board of directors or trustees of the Homeowners Association and attested to by its president and shall be filed with the Regional Office within five (5) days from the date of the scheduled meeting or election.

Section 3. **Inquiry on non-holding or postponement of association meeting or elections.** – If the reasons stated in the affidavit of non-holding of regular membership meeting or election as provided in Section 2 above are found to be without merit, the Regional Office may order the directors or trustees and officers of the Homeowners Association to immediately call for the conduct of the meeting or election that was not held or postponed. The directors or trustees and officers who failed to comply with the order shall be held jointly and severally liable therefor.

Section 4. **Election supervision.** – The Regional Office may call a special election for the officers of a Homeowners Association and set the rules that shall govern the conduct thereof in consultation with the association.

Section 5. **Authority to supervise election**. – The Regional Office may designate one of its responsible officials to supervise, without right of substitution or delegation, the conduct of the special election of a Homeowners Association. Within ten (10) working days after the date of the election, said election supervisor shall submit a report to the Regional Office stating, among others, the following:

a. Whether the special election was held as scheduled;
b. Time of the commencement and end of the election;
c. The following information as appearing in the report of the committee on election of the Homeowners Association:
  i. Number of qualified voters;
  ii. Number of votes cast;
  iii. Number of votes received by individual candidates;
  iv. Protest registered on the day of election, if any; and
  v. Such other information as he may deem relevant and necessary.

Section 6. **Observation of general or regular elections.** – The Regional Office may designate one of its responsible officials to observe the conduct of the general or regular elections of a Homeowners Association, if requested to do so in writing by the association or whenever circumstances warrant said action. The request shall be filed at least ten (10) days before the conduct of the said election and shall be accompanied by a copy of the election guidelines approved by the committee on election of the association.

Rule XV
Fidelity Bond

Section 1. **Fidelity bond.** – Unless otherwise provided for in the Homeowners Associations by-laws, the elected president and treasurer of the Homeowners Association shall file a fidelity bond to answer for the misuse of association funds. The premium of such fidelity bond may be sourced from the operating expenses of the Homeowners Associations in an amount equivalent to the association's cash assets and its equivalent at the time of assumption to office of the officers concerned.

Section 2. **Failure to post fidelity bond.** – If the president and treasurer of the Homeowners Association fail to post the required fidelity bond, they may nonetheless perform their official functions, except that disbursement of the funds of the Homeowners Association shall be at the instance of the board of directors or trustees.

Section 3. **Other land tenurial associations.** – The provisions in Section 1 above notwithstanding, the president and treasurer of associations organized for security of land tenure such as Group Land Acquisition and Development program (GLAD), Community Mortgage Program (CMP) and similar land tenurial assistance programs, shall post a fidelity bond equal to the funds sourced from loans and grants from government and private financial institution.

Rule XVI
Dissolution of Association

Section 1. **Methods of Dissolution.** – A Homeowners Association may be dissolved voluntarily or involuntarily.

Section 2. **Voluntary dissolution where no creditors are affected.** – If the dissolution of a Homeowners Association does not prejudice the rights of any creditor having a claim against it, the dissolution shall be effected by a majority vote of the board of directors or trustees and by a resolution adopted by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members at a meeting to be held on the call of the board of directors or trustees after publication of the notice of the time, place and object of the meeting once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper published in the place where the principal office of the Homeowners Association is located; and if no newspaper is published in such place, then in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines, after posting such notice to the bulletin board of the Homeowners Association and in other strategic or conspicuous places within its territorial boundaries and, after sending such notice to each member either by registered mail or by personal delivery at least thirty (30) days prior to said meeting.

A copy of the resolution authorizing the dissolution shall be certified by a majority of the board of directors or trustees countersigned by the secretary of the Homeowners Association and submitted to the Regional Office, which shall thereupon issue the certificate of dissolution.

Section 3. **Voluntary dissolution where creditors are affected**. – Where the dissolution of a Homeowners Association may prejudice the rights of any creditor, a petition for dissolution shall be filed with the Regional Office. The petition shall be signed by a majority of its board of directors or trustees or other officers of the Homeowners Association having the management of its affairs, verified by its president or secretary or one of its directors or trustees, and shall set forth all claims and demands against it, and that its dissolution was resolved upon by the affirmative vote at least two-thirds (2/3) of its members at a meeting called for that purpose.

If the petition is sufficient in form and substance, the Regional Office shall, by an order reciting the purpose of the petition, fix a date on or before which objections thereto may be filed by any person, which date shall not be less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days after the entry of the order. Before such date, a copy of the order shall be published at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation published in the municipality or city where the principal office of the Homeowners Association is situated, or if there is no such newspaper, then in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines, and a similar copy shall be posted for three (3) consecutive weeks in three (3) public places in such municipality or city and in the bulletin board of the Homeowners Association.

Upon five (5) day's notice, given after the date on which the right to file objections as fixed in the order has expired, the Regional Office shall proceed to hear the petition and try any issue made by the objections filed; and if no such objection is sufficient, and the material allegations of the petition are true, it shall render judgment dissolving the Homeowners Association and ordering such disposition of its assets as justice requires, and may appoint a management committee to collect such assets and pay the debts of the association.

Section 4. **Dissolution by shortening corporate term**. – A voluntary dissolution may be made by amending the articles of incorporation to shorten the term of the Homeowners Association. A copy of the amended articles of incorporation shall be submitted to the Regional Office in accordance with these rules. Upon approval by Regional Office of the amended articles of incorporation or expiration of the shortened term, as the case may be, and upon such terms as may protect the rights of creditors whose claims against the Homeowners Association may be affected by the shortening of its term, the association shall be deemed dissolved without any further proceedings.

Section 5. **Involuntary dissolution**. – A Homeowners Association may be dissolved by the Regional Office upon the filing of a verified complaint and after proper notice and hearing on the grounds provided by existing laws, rules and regulations.

PART IV
MONITORING AND SUPERVISION

Rule XVII
Monitoring

Section 1. **Monitoring.** – The Regional Office may, motu proprio or upon report or request of an interested party, inspect and examine documents, books and records and investigate transactions and activities of a Homeowners Association for the purpose of ascertaining and enforcing its compliance with laws, rules and regulations being implemented by HLURB, and in proper cases, impose appropriate sanctions.

Section 2. **Examination of financial transactions.** – After the submission by the Homeowners Association of the annual reports referred to in Rule XIII, the Regional Office shall conduct an examination and evaluation thereof.

If the Regional Office finds that the documents submitted are incomplete or inconsistent with generally accepted accounting principles, the Regional Office shall issue a notice to submit pertinent book and records of the Homeowners Association concerned, including but not limited to its audited balance sheet or income statement, cash book, ledger and journal, or cash flow statement. For this purpose the Regional Office may also conduct its examination and evaluation of the required reports of the association in its designated administrative office *motu proprio* upon prior notice to the concerned Homeowners Association when circumstances warrant.

Section 3. **Independent audit; when necessary.** – If upon evaluation the Regional Office finds ambiguity or inconsistency in the documents submitted, it may require the board of directors of the Homeowners Association to engage, at its own expense, the services of an independent auditor who shall conduct and review the said financial records. Thereafter, the association shall submit the report of the independent auditor.

Rule XVIII
Show Cause Order

Section 1. **Show cause order.** – If after investigation or upon evaluation of the reports referred to in these rules, it appears that a violation of existing laws, rules and regulations of HLURB has been committed by a Homeowners Association, the Regional Office shall require the association, its directors or trustees and officers to submit a sworn statement explaining why no sanctions should be imposed upon it for the reported violation within ten (10) days from receipt thereof. The Homeowners Association shall attach relevant documents in support of its statement.

Section 2. **Evaluation.** – Upon receipt of the Homeowners Association's sworn statement, the Regional Office shall determine whether or not a violation has been committed. If the Regional Officer determines that no violation was committed, he shall issue an order considering the matter as closed.

If the Homeowners Association fails or refuses to submit its sworn statement, the Regional Office may make a determination on the basis of the records at hand.

Section 3. **Clarificatory conference.** – Upon receipt of a sworn statement, a clarificatory conference may be conducted by the Regional Officer or his duly authorized representative between the complaining party or informant and the Homeowners Association [party subject of monitoring] to clarify matters or issues as may be necessary for the judicious evaluation or resolution of the report or complaint.

Section 4. **Contentious matters.** – Should the matters raised in the letter-complaint or report prove to be contentious, adversarial or will involve the determination of the respective rights and obligations of the parties, the latter shall be advised to file a verified complaint in accordance with the HLURB Rules of Procedure for the adjudication of cases.

Rule XIX
Imposition of Sanctions

Section 1. **Grounds for administrative sanctions.** – Administrative sanctions may be imposed on a Homeowners Association upon any ground provided by law, rules and regulations, including, but not limited to, the following:

a. Fraud or misrepresentation in procuring its certificate of registration;
b. Serious misrepresentation as to what the Homeowners Association can do or is doing;
c. Refusal to comply with or defiance of any lawful order of the HLURB or the Regional Office;
d. Misuse of a right, privilege, or franchise conferred upon it by law, or when the Homeowners Association has exercised a right, privilege, or franchise in contravention of law;
e. Commission or omission of an act which amounts to a surrender of its corporate rights, privileges or franchises;
f. Commission of an offense against the rules and regulations of the HLURB or of the Corporation Code of the Philippines;
g. Non-operation or inactivity for a period of at least five (5) years; and
h. Repeated or habitual failure or delay in filing reports as required by these rules or by the Regional Office.

Section 2. **Order of imposition of sanctions.** – If the Homeowners Association fails to comply with the show cause order, or if upon evaluation of the sworn statement or comment, the Regional Officer determines that a violation has been committed by the association, a fine and/or other administrative sanctions shall be imposed citing the basis thereof.

Section 3. **Liability of officers.** – After due notice, should the Regional Office determine that any of the above enumerated grounds had been committed by the board and/or any of the officers of the Homeowners Association, the erring and/or guilty board members or officers shall be liable for all the sanctions imposed.

Section 4. **Imposable sanctions**. – The sanctions that may be imposed, as well as the factors and circumstances to be considered in the imposition thereof, shall be in accordance with the schedule of fines and guidelines prescribed by the HLURB.

Rule XX
Motion for Reconsideration

Section 1. **When and where to file motion.** – Within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the order imposing the fine and/or administrative sanction, the Homeowners Association may file a motion for reconsideration of the said order with the Regional Office.

Section 2. **Resolution of the motion.** – The Regional Officer shall resolve the motion for reconsideration solely on the basis based on the evidence on record. Only one motion for reconsideration shall be entertained.

Rule XXI
Appeal

Section 1. **When and where to file appeal.** – A Homeowners Association may appeal directly to the HLURB Board of Commissioners an order or resolution of the Regional Office imposing a fine and/or administrative sanction within thirty (30) days from receipt thereof.

If a motion for reconsideration has been filed in accordance with Rule XX above from the order or resolution, the appeal shall be filed within thirty (30) days from receipt of the denial of said motion by the Regional Office.

Section 2. **Proceedings on appeal.** – The appeal shall proceed in accordance with the HLURB Rules of Procedure.

Rule XXII
Finality of Order of Imposition of Sanction

Section 1. **Finality of order.** – The order imposing a fine and/or other administrative sanction on a Homeowners Association shall become final and executory when no appeal has been taken therefrom within thirty (30) days from receipt by the association of said order.

Rule XXIII
Execution of Administrative Sanction

Section 1. **Execution**. – Upon its finality, the Regional Officer shall issue a writ of execution directing the Office of Ex-Officio Sheriff of the province or city concerned to implement the order imposing a fine and/or administrative sanction.

Section 2. **Assistance from other agencies and entities.** – In the enforcement of its orders or writs, the Regional Office may deputize any law enforcement agency or call on any government employee or any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the government or private entities and organizations for cooperation and assistance in the exercise of its functions pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 (i) of Executive Order No. 648, series of 1981.

Rule XXIV
General Provisions

Section 1. **Fees and penalties.** – The HLURB shall fix the amount of the fees to be paid for the processing of applications, petitions and requests under these rules and the penalties to be imposed for any violation of its provisions.

Section 2. **Suppletory application**. – The provisions of the Corporation Code shall have suppletory application on matters not covered by these rules.

Section 3. **Amendments**. – The HLURB may, from time to time, amend these rules and issue supplementary regulations to register, regulate, supervise, and monitor Homeowners Associations and/or to amend the provisions hereof.

Rule XXV
Effectivity

Section 1. **Effectivity**. – These rules shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved this 8th day of November, 2004 Quezon City.

THE HONORABLE NOLI L. DE CASTRO
Vice President of the Philippines
& HUDCC Chairman

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Undersecretary, DOJ
Ex-Officio Commissioner

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Board Secretary

(PDI – January 9, 2005)

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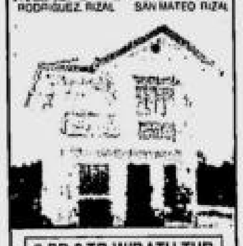

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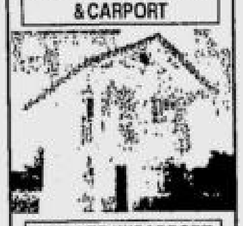

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G'HILLS 1BR 09163173197

CAVITE

2 units twnhse comm'l on 134sqm lot FA80sqm P690T ass. bal. neg Dasma, Cavite T-0927-4618571

TAGUIG

PACIFIC TWR 23m² Rush!
w/income embasy 09189392979

APARTMENT

MANILA

2dr Apt 66m² 2.2M neg U-Belt
Mla 7009941 197582793

LOT

KALOOCAN

420m² P1.2M BALUBAD ST
NOVALICHES 802-2912

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

VILLA ANGELICA LA279m² FA157m² 4br 3tb P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MALABON

1413 SQM COR LOT DELMONTE & MANGUSTAN, POTRERO MALABON NEAR MCARTHUR HIWAY T8447903,09189258470

Tenjeros nr market 400m² @7,500T/m² 0917-8997547

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

MAKATI

McKinley Hills Global City P10M 634-1212

MANDALUYONG

Mand 600m² A Reyes 532-3936

QC 400m² Mapayapa II 532-936

PARANAQUE

LOT 4SALE 24,000SQM ALNG MACAPAGAL AVE@26500 /SQM CALL 0927-8729815

PASAY

LOT 4SALE 320SQM ALONG FB HARRISON@2500/SQM CALL 0927-8729815

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

VL 120m² P758T 631-3296

QUEZON CITY

Q.C. LOT 120sqm. 6 TH
Per Sqm. TCT7317487 Rush

Rd 20 Proj. 8, 1,418m²@ P14T/m² Cong. Ave Ext. 451m² @ 9T/m² Proj 6 nr SM Nrth 267m²@3.6M DBO. 0917-8997547 Jona

RIZAL

LOT ONLY-295sqm BLOCK9, LOT10 FILINVEST HOMES EAST PHASEV ANTIPOLO, CAINTA TEXT AT 0920-9603724

RICHMOND nr Ortigas Ext COMML 200m² Ph1 P6T/m² RESD'L 164m² P5T/m² w/view
RUSH 9338423 / 6356003

OTHER AREAS

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BATANGAS

(12)400-700M² LOT IN SANTOMAS 30MSOUTH OF ALABANG NICE VW 1KM FR HWY P775M² CASH / TERMS TEX09184204333/T04377B5373

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m2 P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P165/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2 P2,900-m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

Wedgewood Lot Beth 809-3531

PARKPLACE SUBD LA149.30m² P6,028/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA nr SM 371m² P2,650/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAMELLA HOMES BACOOR LA137m² FA198.90m² 5br P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m2 LA240m2 Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

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FOR SALE
6.9 hectare farm land in Sta. Cruz Zambales w/clean TCT & Loc. Plan w/600 4yrs old mango trees & 2,500 assorted Mahogany, Eucalyptus & Aguho tree & other assorted fruit bearing trees. Abundant water w/fence P6.5M Call
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7418092 / 741-3792

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P165/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

59West Av 780m² 120T 09209034812

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

West Ave Car Sp 0920-9034812

HOUSE

MAKATI

BELAIR 3BR+DEN
18 LEO T 8885608

ROOF TOP 300sqm for OFFICE & RESIDENTIAL 700 JP Rizal St. Look for Doly Dionisio 524-5269

PARANAQUE

HSE NR SM BCTAN 5BR 3TB 19T/MO. 09178571089 BONG

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4 TM Kalaw St Tierra Pura near grdhse 5BR 3TB Maids Qtr cvrd 3car grge P32T 2mo dep 1mo adv Call 749-7027 ;
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MANILA

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PARANAQUE

ROXAS BLVD BAYVIEW INTL 3BR Furn 35T T-0916-785-5507

PASIG

RENAISSANCE 0918-3975650

QUEZON CITY

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SAN JUAN

Ghills FF Stu P11T 929-9835

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2br U/D Strong H²O P8.5K
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MANILA

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MANILA

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652 M Cristina Samp 09174529165

PASIG

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Nr. Ortigas 9T • 916-2410

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Nw studio lady 3.5T 9137513

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MAKATI nr BUENDIA PTAMO 62/148/185/M² 1st class 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

Mkna Ofc Clinic 646-1822

Nr Trabajo Mrkt Samp. Mla 0917-8906317 • 749-7119

Opo Coml Sp w/Mezz 8906374

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Sale/Rental/Servce 8014494

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Foundation for the Advancement of Montessori Education in the Philippines (FAMEP)

is honored to announce the offering of the second Association Montessori Internationale (AMI)

Montessori Primary (3-6 years) Teacher Training Course

to be held in Manila, Philippines over three summers beginning in April/May 2005.
Director of Training will be Dr. Rita Schaefer-Zener.
Dr. Zener has had over 30 years of experience as a Primary Trainer in different parts of the world.

FAMEP invites all interested persons and educational institutions to take advantage of this rare opportunity to attend an internationally recognized AMI accredited-training course in Manila.

For more information, please visit **www.famep.org** or contact Ms. Marie Zamora at 805-9863, 805-0871 (Fax), Ms. Amanda Lim at 776-7304, 776-7308, 776-7305 (fax) **or info@famep.org**

FAMEP was founded in 1997 and registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission in February 1998.

AMI was founded by Dr. Maria Montessori in 1929.

AGUSAN FOR PEOPLE'S HEALTH DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.
(APHDFI)

An NGO based in Patin-ay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur, established and supported by ***AusAID*** is urgently in need of qualified applicants for the following positions:

1. Executive Manager

Qualifications:

- With Bachelor's degree in community development, socialwork, public health or any related courses;
- Preferably with post graduate studies in development management, public health and related studies;
- With substantial experience in social/health development work and project management;
- With good oral and written communication skills;
- Knowledge and experience in project designing and proposal making;
- Experience in working in partnership with local government units, NGOs, people's organizations and other foreign funded projects is a must;
- Committed to work, an achiever and able to work under pressure;
- Willing to stay in Agusan del Sur, and
- Computer literate (Microsoft Word, Excel, Publisher, Powerpoint)

2. Administrative/Finance Officer

- A graduate of Bachelor's degree in Accounting and in any related courses;
- With supervisory experience;
- Must possess good oral and written communication skills;
- Must possess good inter-personal relationships (a team player);
- With experience working in an NGO or foundations is a leverage;
- Committed to work, an achiever and able to work under pressure;
- Willing to stay in Agusan del Sur; and
- Computer literate (Microsoft Word, Excel, Publisher, Powerpoint)

Requirements:

- Letter of Intent
- Comprehensive Curriculum Vitaé with list of references
- NBI, POLICE & BARANGAY Clearance
- Certificate of Employment from previous employer
- Transcript of Records

The APHDFI offers a competitive compensation package and benefits, please address and send your letter of intent and documentary requirements to:

Hon. Adolph Edward G. Plaza
President, APHDFI
PHRC Bldg., DOPMH Compound, Patin-ay, Prosperidad
Agusan del Sur

Please contact Ms. Elizabeth Gilot or Gloria Navarro for details at telephone numbers (085) 242-3368 ro (085) 343-7575
Or you can send your letter of intent and resumé through E-mail at malaria@skyinet.net

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GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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PCCI
332TH PCCI
& 333RD PCCI
ALL-BREEDS DOGSHOWS
January 29 & 30, 2005
RIVERBANKS CENTER
MARIKINA CITY
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
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ADVANCE
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PCCI
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local 118-119
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Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PUBLIC BIDDING FOR THE HIRING OF AN ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING DESIGN FIRM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PHILHEALTH CORPORATE CENTER

NO. 2005-1

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHILHEALTH) wishes to invite duly licensed Architectural and Engineering Design Firms with 10 years of experience in similar projects to prepare the schematic and detailed architectural/engineering design as follows:

1. Design of Head Office Building approximately 30,000 sq. meters in total floor area.
2. Design for secondary structures (outside Head Office building) shall be comprised, among others, of: Power House, Generators and sub-station; Maintenance, Motorpool and Driver's Lounge; Records Warehouse; Supplies Warehouse; Gymnasium; and Dormitory.
3. Design for Site Development with a total lot area of 17,230.50 sq. meters to include but shall not be limited to earthworks, fencing, drainage, landscaping, driveways, open parking space to accommodate 150 cars, guard posts, waiting sheds and pump house.

The work shall consist of : Pre-Design Phase *(Estimated Duration Period: 1 month);* Basic Design Phase A *(Estimated Duration Period: 1 month); Basic Design Phase B* (Estimated Duration Period: 1 month); *and* Construction Phase *(Estimated Duration Period: 18 months)*

The approved budget for the contract is P44,000,000.00.

Submission of Letter of Intent and Issuance of Bid documents will start from January 10, 2005 and will end on January 21, 2005, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Office of the Secretariat – Bids and Awards Committee in the Central Office, Room 1804, Citystate Center, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.

Submission of Eligibility documents will start on January 24, 2005 and the last day is on January 28, 2005. The Pre-Bid conference will be held on February 18, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Office of the Secretariat – Bids and Awards Committee in the Central Office.

Submission of Bids will be on March 1, 2005 on or before 12:00 noon (during office hours) at the Office of the BAC Secretariat (Room 1804). Opening of bid documents will follow at 1:30 p.m. at the same date and venue. The official clock shall be the wall clock located at room 1804 (Office of the BAC Secretariat). Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted.

PhilHealth shall determine the eligibility of bidders based on the submitted eligibility documents using "pass/fail" criteria. Short listing of prospective bidders shall be based on qualification requirement criteria. PhilHealth shall employ a **Quality Cost Based Rating System** with 15% weight for the Financial Proposal on bid evaluation.

PhilHealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, if there is prima facie evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the procuring entity, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and the third party, including any act which restricts, or suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition; if the BAC is found to have failed in following the prescribed bidding procedures; or for any justifiable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government as follows: if the physical and economic conditions have significantly changed so as to render the project no longer economically, financially or technically feasible as determined by the head of the procuring entity; and if the source of the funds for the project has been withheld or reduced through no fault of the procuring entity.

The Chairperson - BAC Infra
PhilHealth

(PDI–Jan. 9, 2005)

NFA, LBP launch marketing assistance program in Pangasinan

TO provide a ready market for farmers' produce, the National Food Authority, the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and the provincial government of Pangasinan recently signed a memorandum of agreement recently for the continuous implementation of the province's Grains Marketing Assistance Program (GMAP).

NFA Assistant Administrator Ludovico Jarina signed the MOA with Pangasinan Governor Victor Agbayani and LBP President and CEO Margarito Teves.

The GMAP aims to improve and enhance the marketing capability of farmer cooperatives by providing them with viable markets for their produce and developing their skills so they can engage in profitable marketing ventures such as grains trading. It also provides credit assistance to core cooperatives thereby increasing their income while helping small cooperatives prosper.

Jarina said the NFA will continue to support the said program on behalf of the province's small farmers. He said the NFA, for its part, has increased its palay support price by P1 per kilogram since December 1 last year. The NFA buys palay at P10 per kilogram and provides an additional P0.50 per kilogram incentive for transport, drying and Cooperative Development Incentive Fee (CDIF).

For more information on other NFA programs, the public may send their inquiries to Text NFA by sending them to mobile number 0917-6210927.

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Concordio S. Galutera

Concordio S. Galutera, 81, a businessman from Dupax del Sur, Nueva Vizcaya, died Wednesday, January 5, 2005 in Tallahassee, Florida USA. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Nieves L. Galutera.**

The memorial service will be at 11 a.m. EDT Monday at Good Shepherd Catholic Church. The family will receive friends from 6 to 9 p.m. EDT Saturday and Sunday at Culley's Meadow Wood Funeral Home, Timberlane Road Chapel in Tallahassee, Florida USA.

He was a member of Good Shepherd Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus Philippines.

Other survivors include four sons, **Romulo Galutera** (and wife **Maxima**), **Edgar Galutera** (and wife **Marissa**), **Concordio Galutera Jr.** (and wife **Bonifacia**) and **Roehl Galutera** (and friend **Irene**); four daughters, **Nelia Valenzuela**, **Linda Magalad** (and husband **Manolo**), **Corazon Garcia** (and husband **Dr. Fernando**) and **Daisy Galutera** (and friend **Leopoldo**); three sisters-in-law, **Belinda Gonzalvo**, **Trinidad Lopez** and **Zenaida Lopez**; 22 grandchildren, **Eileen**, **Myleen** (and husband **Ren**), **Rainier**, **Christian**, **Francis** (and wife **Grace**), **Richard** (and wife **Vanessa**), **Deacon James**, **Marc**, **Nicole**, **Karin**, **Kehri**, **Christine**, **Brian** (and friend **Jackie**), **Patrick**, **Charmaine** (and husband **Raymond**), **Kathleen**, **Michelle**, **Stephanie**, **Kerstin** (and friend **Ron**), **Kathryn**, **J.B.** and **Kevin**; and four great-grandchildren, **Elise**, **Amelie**, **Sara**, and **Carl.**

Relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of their soul.

PRISCILLA C. CARILLO

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on December 31, 2004 at the age of 84.

Her loving children **Lily** and **Nardo**, **Florita** and **Pablito**, **Pacita**, **Victorino, Jr** and **Ghie**, **Tessie** and **Nick**, **Teresa** and **Adefer**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at 2219 Lencio St., Pandacan, Manila.

Interment will be held today, Sunday, January 9, 2005 at South Cemetery after the 2:00 PM Mass at Sto. Niño Church, Pandacan, Manila.

Our Dearly Beloved

Atty. Melquiades C. Gutierrez

of Alitagtag, Batangas and Ayala Alabang

Peacefully joined our Lord
on January 8, 2005 at the age of 81.

His loving wife **Remy**; children **Kreng** and **Mac Guzman**, **Jeri** and **Suzi**; **Me-an**; **Bobet** and **Tina**; **Rose** and **Pepe Adiarte**; grandchildren **Jomel**, **Meg**, **JB**, **Gen. Jerome**, **Claire**, **Ryan**, **Kimi**, **Iggy**, **Justine**, **Miguel**, and **Joma**; sisters and brothers **Gloriosa** (†), **Lydia** (†), **Armando** (†), **Reynaldo** (†), **Benjamin** (†), **Efren**, **Cesar**, and **Mario** (†); sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Jerome Parish Church, Alabang. Cremation will be on Tuesday, January 11, 2005 at the Holy Trinity Crematorium at Sucat, Parañaque after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

- DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
- MESSAGE OF THANKS
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- FREE OBIT DESIGN

> *"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul."* ***(Psalm 23:1, 2)***

CORAZON HUMILDE "Meek" ROXAS

March 26, 1944 – December 23, 2004

He is survived by his wife **Rosamarie**; daughter **Diana Jayne**; sisters **Fiel Eva** and **Piedad**; brother **Jose Amor**, in-laws, nephews and nieces and other relatives. We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at The Chapel of the Holy Redeemer, Panorama Hills Subd., Cupang, Antipolo.

Interment will be at Evergreen Memorial Garden, C. Raymundo Ave., Cor. Mercedes Ave., Pasig City, on Tuesday, January 11, 2005, after the 8 a.m. Mass at The Chapel of the Holy Redeemer.

LYDIA NAVARRETE KAGAOAN BARROS

Peacefully joined our Lord and her husband,
Candido Somera Barros on January 6, 2005 at the age of 75.

Her loving children George & Tamara, Jane & Eric; grandchildren Georgie & Jonah, Pocholo; brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, in-laws; other relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state in Chapel H, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati.

Interment will be on Wednesday, January 12, 2005; at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Loyola Memorial Chapels.

Whoever finds his life will lose it,
and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

ATTY. WILFREDO C. CARANDANG

Peacefully joined our Lord
on January 7, 2005 at the of 56.

He is survived by his loving wife **Marites**; children **Wilson**, **Wilfredo Jr.**, **Maridi** and **Willie**; sisters and brother.

His remains lie in state at their ancestral residence in Taal,Batangas.

Interment will be on Wednesday, January 12, 2005 at the Taal Catholic Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. mass.

The Members of the
TAU ALPHA SIGMA FRATERNITY
announce with deep sorrow the demise of their beloved brother

ATTY. WILFREDO C. CARANDANG, CPA

who passed away on January 7, 2005

His remains lie in state at his ancestral residence in Taal, Batangas.

Interment will be on Wednesday, January 12, 2005 at the Taal Catholic Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

BY A DYNAMIC AND EXPANDING GROUP OF COMPANIES

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

- College graduate and with good scholastic record preferably from UP, Ateneo, La Salle, UA & P
- Must have at least 5 to 10 years related work experience
- Not more than 35 years old
- Excellent in oral and written communications
- Good typing skills and computer literate
- Can be delegated to perform highly responsible duties and able to organize office systems and procedures
- Patient, flexible in time schedule and dedicated to work
- Ability to work with least supervision, results oriented, hardworking, and willing to work long hours
- Preferably a resident of San Juan, Quezon City, Makati or within Metro Manila

AUDITORS

- Male, not more than 40 years old
- Accounting graduate, preferable a CPA, from a reputable school or university
- At least five (5) years experience as an Auditor
- Comprehensive knowledge in financial statements preparation, feasibility studies, and taxation
- Experience in external audit is an advantage
- Familiar with different computerized accounting systems
- Honest, dependable, industrious, willing to work long hours

FITTERS

- Male, 25 to 35 years old
- Must have at least three (3) years experience in pipefitting in industrial plants
- Must be able to read or interpret piping drawings
- At least high school or vocational graduate related to pipefitting works

COMPANY DRIVER

- At least 28 to 35 years old
- Al least five (5) years experience in driving private vehicles as company driver
- Must be willing to drive 10-wheeler-type trucks
- Must be familiar with Metro Manila routes
- Knowledge in trouble shooting is an advantage
- Familiar with driver etiquette, with pleasing personality, alert, trustworthy and willing to work overtime

WELDERS

- Must be 22 to 30 years old
- Must have worked for at least two (2) years
- Must be 3G/6G level

HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC

- Experienced in major overhaul; able to repair engines, transmission, break system; rebuilding and heavy equipment preventive maintenance
- Preferably with some electrical background
- 28 to 40 years old
- At least five (5) years experience in related work

RECEPTIONIST

- Not more than 30 years old
- With smart appearance and good communication skills
- With pleasant and friendly personality and should be courteous
- Flexible, can work long hours and under pressure
- Should be efficient and well-organized and can work with minimum supervision
- Must have more than 3 years work experience in the same field

MOTORPOOL SUPERVISOR

- Male, not more than 45 years old
- Preferably a Mechanical Engineering graduate with good scholastic record
- Must have at least three (3) years comprehensive experience in Motorpool supervision
- With knowledge in repair of trucks, especially Isuzu and I.H.
- Reliable, a team player and can work long hours and under pressure

CHEMICAL, CIVIL, ELECTRICAL, INDUSTRIAL and MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

- Male, not more than 40 years old
- Licensed, with very good scholastic record from a prestigious school or university
- At least 5 to 10 years work experience preferably in Chemical Plant
- With excellent communications skills, both oral and written
- Computer literate and very familiar with ISO/TQM standard
- Flexible, hardworking and can work with minimum supervision

Qualified applicants are requested to apply in person with a detailed resume, most recent I.D. Picture, NBI Clearance, transcript of records, Training and previous employment certificates at:
Suite 306, Bonaventure Plaza, Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, M.M.

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Qualifications:

- College graduate
- Male or Female
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All Instructor Applicants please send resume. Other applicants interview will be on Jan. 11, Tuesday 1 - 5 pm. 5/F Dona Consolascion Bldg., 602 Gen. Santos Ave., Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City

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Republic of the Philippines

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Tanza, Boac, Marinduque

Please be informed that the **MARINDUQUE STATE COLLEGE** (MSC) Board of Trustees announces the opening of the position of

College President

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1. Filipino citizen
2. Preferably Doctoral Degree holder
3. Preferably not more than 60 years old at the time of appointment as President of the College
4. Have at least five (5) years of managerial capability
5. Morally upright

Applicants are required to submit clearance from the following:

1. Ombudsman
2. Civil Service Commission
3. National Bureau of Investigation
4. Sandiganbayan

Applicants are also requried to submit the following:

1. Detailed Curriculum Vitae
2. Vision-Mission for the College
3. Neuro Exam
4. Medical Certificate

Interested applicants are requested to submit 5 (copies) of formal application, and all requirements on or before January 26, 2005 to:

Com. Ma. Cristina D. Padolina
Commission on Higher Education
DAP Bldg., San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
(02) 638-48-70

or

Mrs. Proserfina M. Mablog
Coordinator
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E-mail Address: nfaro4@batangas.net.ph

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT

The Regional Bids and Awards Committee of the National Food Authority, Region IV at Batangas City is informing all interested bidders per invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid which was published last December 29, 2004 and January 05, 2005 that the third qualification requirement "which has neither been a respondent to NFA charges nor has it been a complainant against NFA in any court of law or administrative bodies (This also applies to sister companies)", should be amended and read as follows:

"which are not respondents in a pending case(s) filed by the NFA and those with Director(s), officer(s) or stockholder(s) owning the controlling interest* who are also respondents in a case(s) filed by NFA (This also applies to sister companies)."

*Controlling interest shall mean fifty-one percent (51%) of the outstanding capital stock of the corporation.

(Sgd.) **WILFREDO O. RENDON**
Assistant Regional Director and Chairman,
Regional Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Jan. 9, 2005)

LEGEND INTERNATIONAL RESORTS LIMITED

The Legend Lives On.

A prestigious Casino / Hotel located at Subic Bay Freeport Zone is currently in need of:

SURVEILLANCE EXECUTIVE

JOB SUMMARY:
Directs, coordinates and oversees the activities of the Surveillance nersonnal in monitoring gaming tables, slot operations, count rooms, cashier cages and downtime activity in the Casino and support areas:

Qualifications:

- Minimum of three (3) years in Surveillance Operations Department, with at least one (1) year experience as Surveillance Supervisor (Executive);
- College graduate (any four-year course);
- Strong interpersonal skills and analytical ability;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills, especially in English;
- Fair and objective;
- Must have flexible working habit

JR. SURVEILLANCE EXECUTIVE

JOB SUMMARY:
Assists the Surveillance Executives in their duties and supervises the CCTV room in their absence.

Qualifications:

- Minimum of three (3) years in Surveillance Operations Department;
- College graduate (any four-year course);
- Strong interpersonal skills and analytical ability;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Must have flexible working habit;
- Can work under pressure;

SURVEILLANCE OFFICER

JOB SUMMARY:
Observes all activities of guests and employees on the Casino floor, cashier cages, slot operations, count rooms, slot operations, count rooms and support areas, via the CCTV system, for any irregularity and the compliance of Company policies and procedures.

Qualifications:

- Minimum of one (1) year experience as Surveillance Officer;
- College graduate (any four-year course);
- Overseas exposure is an advantage;
- Strong interpersonal skills and analytical ability;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Must have flexible working habit;
- Can work under pressure:

JUNIOR SURVEILLANCE OFFICER

JOB SUMMARY:
Monitors gaming and support areas with the aid of CCTV. Prepares incident and other related reports as may be required by the Surveillance Officer / Executive.

Qualifications:

- Minimum of one year Gaming experience as Inspector or above;
- College graduate of any course;
- Knowledge of conducting investigations and report writing is an advantage;
- Keen observer;
- Strong analytical ability;
- Good oral and written communication skills;
- Computer literate;
- Can work under pressure;
- Patient and honest;
- Overseas exposure is an advantage

VIP SERVICES EXECUTIVE

JOB SUMMARY:
Assists the VIP Services Manager and Asst. VIP Services Manager in the operational and administrative requirements of the VIP Services Department.

Qualifications:

- College graduate of any course;
- Minimum of three (3) years experience in Casino Industry;
- Minimum of two (2) years exposure in junket operations and negotiations;
- Above average written and oral communication skills;
- Knowledge of any Asian language is an advantage;
- Strong interpersonal skills;
- Possesses leadership qualities;
- Excellent public relations skills.

VIP SERVICES COORDINATOR

JOB SUMMARY:
Qualified applicants will be tasked to liaise with various hotel departments and to provide service that is uniquely LIRL

Qualifications:

- College graduate of any course;
- Fluent in Mandarin, Hokkien and/or Korean languages;
- At least one (1) year experience in customer service;
- with excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Strong interpersonal skills;
- Patient and flexible;
- Prepared to work overtime when required.

Residents of Olongapo, Zambales, Bataan, Pampanga and/or other areas in Central Luzon are preferred. Interested applicants may send / submit their resumés / bio-data with supporting documents and recent 2x2 photo to:

LEGEND INTERNATIONAL RESORTS LIMITED
Recruitment & Training Office
2F Oak Bldg., Legenda Suites, Cubi Point,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Olongapo City 2200
Fax No. (02) 813-5670
E-mail address: hrd@legendanet.com

DBP
Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR WORKS ENGINEER

Construction of DBP Branch Building, Baguio City

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting Works Engineer with experience in multi-storey building construction for Eligibility Check for the proposed construction of the DBP Branch Building in Session Road, Baguio City.

Approved Budget for the Contract	P 3,000,000.00
Source of Fund:	Approved Budget for Capital Expenditures for Construction.
Scope of Work:	Full time supervision and coordination of the construction project to ensure that the project is completed within the timetable in conformity with the plans, specifications and other related documents to be issued by the Architect and DBP.
Contract duration:	Construction phase until post-construction phase

Application for eligibility check is open to Works Engineers, registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission/Department of Trade and Industry who have supervised the construction of a multi-storey (at least 6-storey) Office Building worth at least P100 Million, preferably in Baguio City.

Evaluation of the eligible bidders shall make use of the quality-cost based method under RA 9184 wherein the technical proposals shall be evaluated first and only the financial proposals of the Works Engineers who meet the minimum technical rating shall be opened. The combined numerical ratings of their technical and financial proposals shall be given weights of 60% and 40% respectively.

Schedule of Activities:

Particulars	Date	Venue
Issuance of eligibility requirements*	January 10-19, 2005	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Main Building
Submission and Opening of eligibility requirements and letter of intent	January 20, 2005 not later than 9:00 a.m.	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Main Building
Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Bidders upon payment of P1,000.00	February 1-9, 2005	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Main Building
Pre-Bid Conference	February 10, 2005 9:00 a.m.	OPS Conference, Room, 6th Floor, DBP Main Building
Submission of Technical and Financial Proposals	February 17, 2005 2:00 p.m.	OPS Conference, Room, 6th Floor, DBP Main Building
Evaluation of Technical Proposals	February 18-22, 2005	OPS Conference, Room, 6th Floor, DBP Main Building
Opening of Financial Proposals	February 23, 2005 2:00 p.m.	OPS Conference, Room, 6th Floor, DBP Main Building

* You may download these forms at www.devbankphilcom.ph and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management.

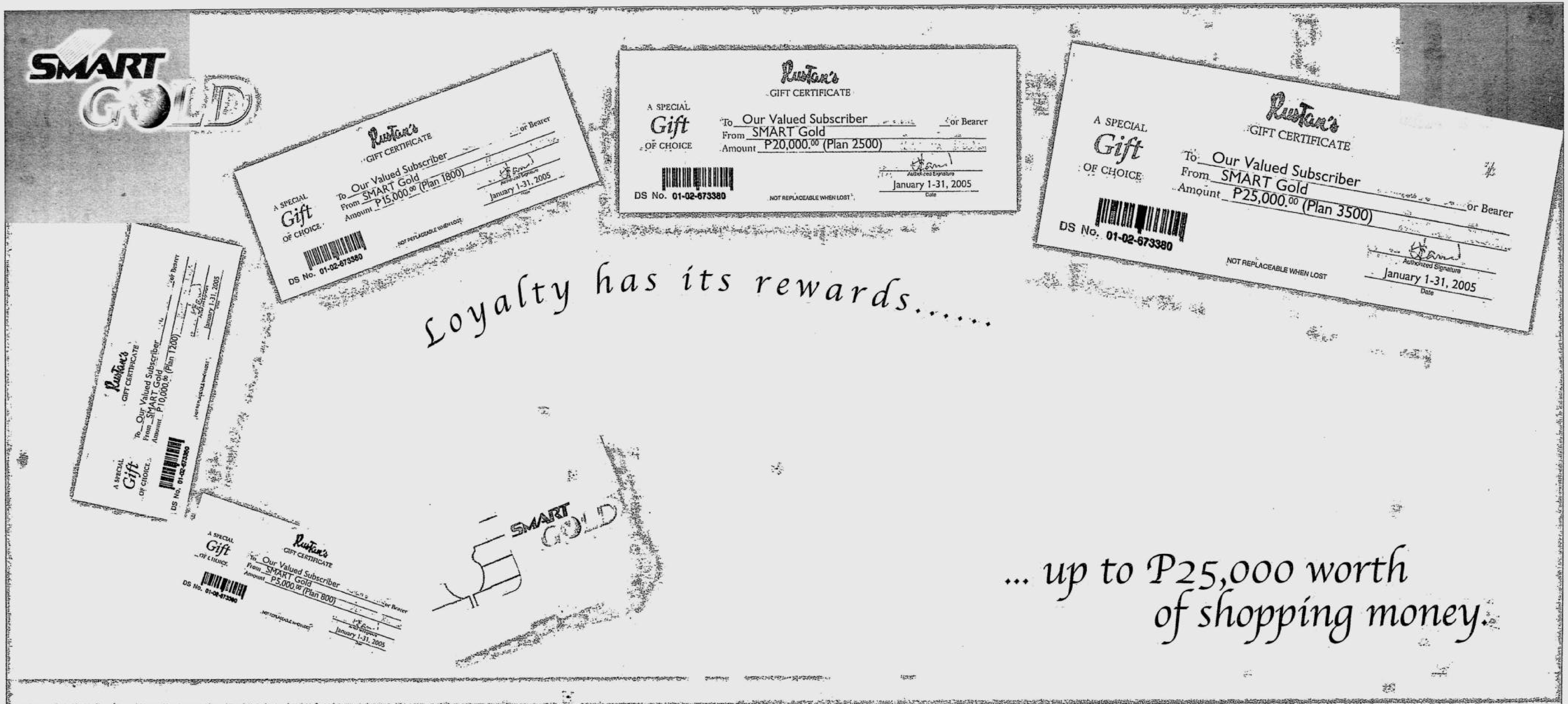
For inquiries, please call telephone number 815-0945.

This bidding shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184 s.2003, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

The Development Bank of the Philippines reserves the right to reject incomplete or any and all documents, which do not comply with the requirements.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI–Jan. 9 & 16, 2005)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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

TUNIC in beaten filigree with gold and white design by Gabby Barredo

OFFICERS and members of Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre del Niño Jesus

What Child is this

500 images of the Sto. Niño in vestments spun in gold and woven with gossamer will be on exhibit to coincide with the fiesta on Jan. 17-30

THE CONGREGACION del Santisimo Nombre del Niño Jesus celebrates its silver anniversary that coincides with its annual Fiesta del Sto. Niño, Jan. 17-30 at the Philippine National Bank Financial Center, Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, Pasay City.

The congregacion, which now has 27 members, invites all Sto. Niño devotees and the faithful to participate in the event.

Registration will be held 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Jan. 17-19, at the PNB Long Gallery, 3/F of the PNB Financial Center.

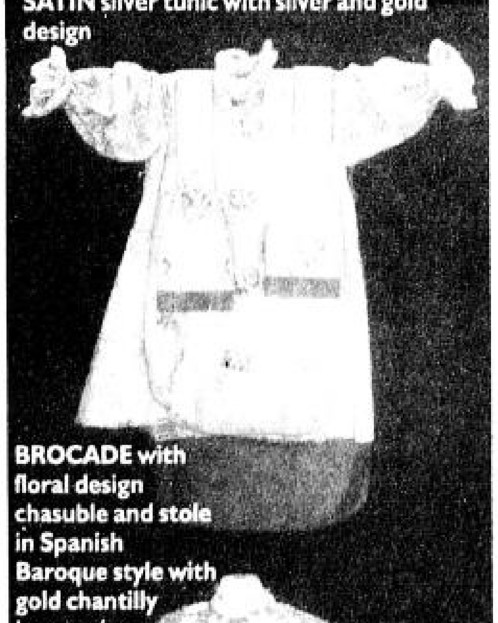
Five hundred images of the Sto. Niño in breathtaking vestments will be on exhibit on Jan. 20-29 at the PNB Long Gallery. Spun in gold, woven with gossamer, embellished with brilliants, the vestments worn by The Holy Child in His numerous appellations will reveal His devotees' faith and depth of devotion.

The enthronement of "Nombre" and the first day of Novena Mass on Jan. 20 will be followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony opening the exhibition. PNB president Lorenzo V. Tan, *hermanos mayores* headed by Luis Ablaza, honorary consul of Guatemala Mellie Ablaza and Imelda O. Cojuangco will cut the ribbon.

Bishop Teodoro Bacani is among the prominent guests invited to the annual event, which has been held at the PNB Financial Center for the past seven years.

A grand procession on Jan. 30 of *carrozas* bearing the many images of The Child Jesus will cap the annual Fiesta del Sto. Niño. It will end at the Luneta Grandstand where an Ati-Atihan will be staged. A fireworks display will be held in the evening.

SATIN silver tunic with silver and gold design



BROCADE with floral design chasuble and stole in Spanish Baroque style with gold chantilly lace tunic

VESTMENT in Dalmatic style with blue and magenta overitalia design by Ben Farrales

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Enjoy fast and reliable internet with a brand new PC. Get massive discounts of up to P11,000 on a fully loaded PC when you avail of any PLDT myDSL plan. What's more, you also get FREE installation on your PLDT myDSL and a Lexmark printer. Why wait? Visit the PLDT myDSL booth at PLDT Business Offices or designated areas in selected SM Malls.

PLDT myDSL Plan	Speed	Discounted PC Price	Discount/Savings
PLDT MyDSL Plan 1995	Up to 384 Kbps	Php 12,999	Php 7,001 or 35%
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PC retail price is Php 20,000, inclusive of VAT
Free Printer promo will be applied under DTI NCR # 1877 series of 2004

Mechanics
1. Promo is available at the following SM Malls: Megamall, North Edsa, Southmall, Centerpoint and Lucena.
2. Promo period is from December 24, 2004 to January 9, 2005.
3. A lock-in period of 24 months or two (2) years is required for PLDT myDSL.
4. PLDT myDSL applicant should have a PLDT residential landline service.
5. Should the applicant decide to terminate the service within the lock-in period, a three (3) month MSF depending on subscribed PLDT myDSL plan plus the discount/savings shall be charged.
6. Get the FREE printer when you purchase a Black and White ink cartridge (P950) or a Colored ink cartridge (P1200). The printer can be claimed at the PLDT Business Office.

SEE FLYERS FOR DETAILS

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3427, Series of 2004

PLDT

REGULARS at Highlands. Arsenic and Crispy Laurel

DIVING and health fanatics Archie and Lingling King

WEDDING anniversary in Tagaytay for Jesus and Cynthia Valdes

GORGEOUS couple Chris and Nanette Po

VISITING from the United States, Eileen and Chris Quitos

TAGAYTAY weekend residents Nonoy and Irene Ibanez

Rare chance to catch up on tourism race

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Vacationing locally has never been so socially correct. Spending in pesos helps in every little way by spurring economic activity in the country

AS WE welcome the New Year with high hopes of a better life ahead, let us all pray for continued blessings for Filipinos everywhere.

In monumental tragedy comes a glimmer of good. A world divided by religious and political indifferences has united to support the afflicted.

It's almost incredible that for once, our country was spared from a natural disaster. Although we also have had recent and terrible typhoons, the damage and toll has not nearly been as calamitous as that befalling our sister Asian nations.

Since the tsunami has badly damaged our neighboring countries' tourist areas, we should now double our focus on improving our own vacation spots.

Vacationing locally has never been so socially correct. Spending in pesos helps in every little way by spurring economic activity in the country. These past weeks, I did my share in both Tagaytay City and Baguio City (health scare or not!).

Tagaytay Highlands is a most spectacular development overlooking Taal Volcano and its surrounding picturesque lake. It's amazing to see the transformation of a whole mountain terrain into unique, pine-tree-bordered log cabins, golf courses and country-club facilities. Any first-time visitor is always impressed with the site and is usually shocked to realize that anything so great actually exists in the Philippines. Tagaytay is a clear example that progress is possible in our country.

Only about an hour from the metropolis, Tagaytay Highlands is a wonderful place to spend weekends in. Aside from the fresh clean air to breathe, I love to do my laps in their heated, indoor swimming pool. Now that my OB, Dr. **Annebelle Aherrera**, has allowed me to do moderate exercise, I have no excuse to sleep all day and not get any workout.

On New Year's Eve, our family visited the lovely Tagaytay home of **Mary de Leon**, who annually has a midnight Mass officiated by Fr. **Ely Santos**. His homilies are always so relevant that even my kids enjoy them and I don't catch my husband **Dennis**' eyelids drooping in the midst of the talk.

There is nothing as sacred as good health so I wish that for all of you, especially for my cousin-in-law **Jake Uichico**, who has been recovering from an unfortunate stroke he suffered during my 40th birthday adventure race.

My other cousin, **Jon-Jon Rufino**, has been keeping me on the fitness track, though our training programs are on hold for nine months. Lately, I've been feasting on his home-cooked meals.

At a recent party Jon-Jon hosted for some friends, there were two pregnant women and another two who had just delivered. Good friend and longtime diving buddy **Jeena Lopez** is pregnant with twins and we are just the same size! I imagine that if I were carrying twins, I would be so big that I would just stay in bed for nine months!

After I deliver, I want to look as gorgeous as **Nanette Medved**, who looks stunning after her first baby—a boy—was born only seven months ago. She credits breast-feeding as the foolproof slimming solution.

Pines City

In spite of the health warnings regarding a viral disease called meningococcemia (is that word long enough?), I visited the City of Pines last week to inspect the soon-to-open Hotel Elizabeth, a hotel project of my interior design firm.

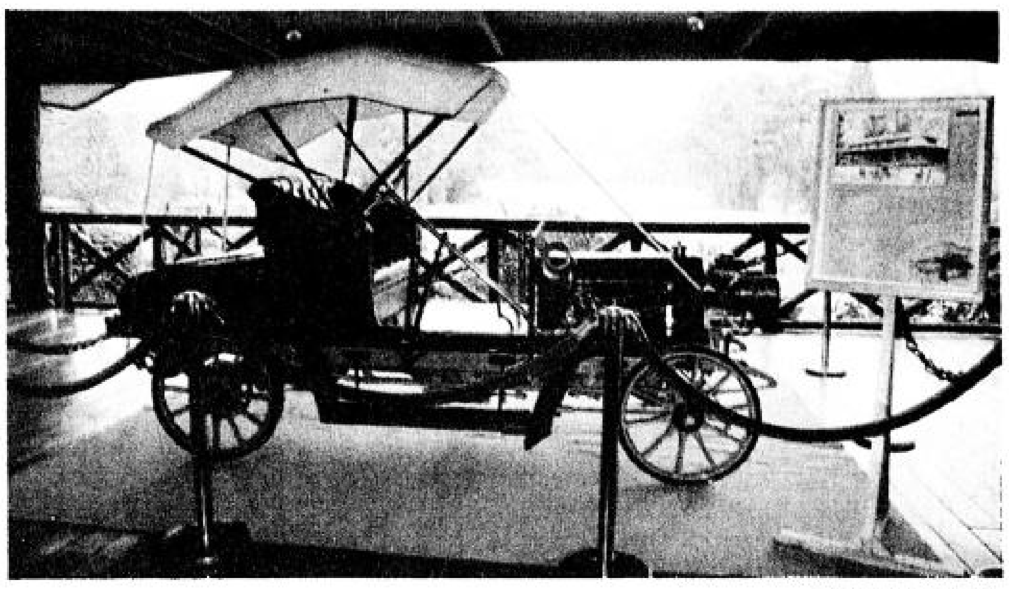
With Dennis preventing me from going to the market, I went instead to the shops in Mines View Park, since it has more open style stalls and less chances of contacting any virus. Baguio also gave me the chance to dine at an old favorite, Mario's Restaurant, which still makes a mean Caesar's salad.

I ordered several loaves of raisin bread from the bakery of Baguio Country Club (BCC) to share with my friends since I decided not to get them strawberry jams from the market. BCC will be celebrating its centennial anniversary next month and will be having wonderful crooner **Martin Nievera** for the big bash. It's really too bad that the club has an edict against stocking the INQUIRER because now they can't get to read all this free publicity I am doing for them!

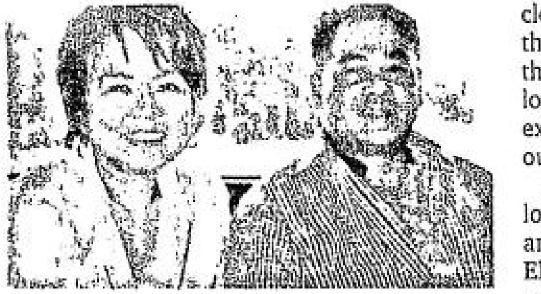
As part of its centenary, a 100-year-old car, one of the first in the country, is being displayed in its lobby. It was brought in by the trading firm Estrella Del Norte in 1904 and sold to brothers **Augusto** and **Demetrio Tuazon**. Our local Larry King and car fanatic, **Cito Beltran**, now owns this car among the many others he collects.

The Year of the Rooster is forecast to be even more difficult than last year. But I strongly believe that you can create your own destiny by thinking positively. At the annual Christmas party hosted by gracious couple **Robbie** and **Helen Delgado**, my husband Dennis won the grand prize—a business-class round-trip ticket to the United States on Asiana Airlines. Interestingly, I won the grand prize last year! Blessings like that should not be taken for granted!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph



THE ROADSTER, a 100-year-old car displayed at Baguio Country Club



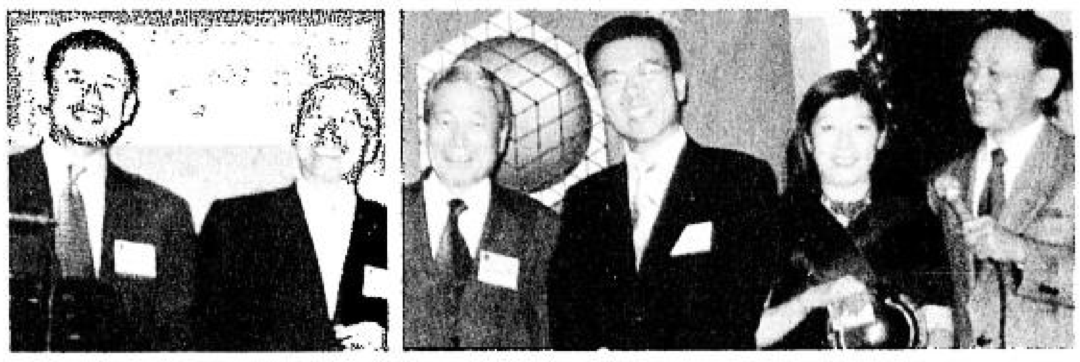
HOTEL Elizabeth owners Beth and Jet Fernando

COMPANY friends Lizanne Uychaco, Kanzo Yoshiki and Soc Niro

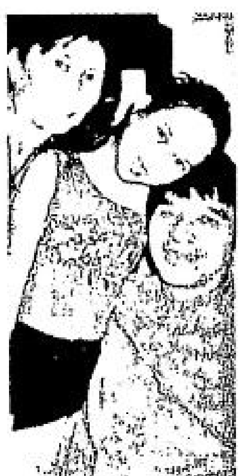
HOLY company with Fr. Ely Santos and Isabel Barandiaran and kids

ANITA Magsaysay-Ho and Nellie Delgado

NEW YEAR party host Mary de Leon with Marivic and Joe Concepcion



LUCKY winner Dennis Valdes, party host Robbie Delgado, Korean envoy Myung-Hwan Yu, Asiana Airlines' H.I. Kim, Helen Delgado and Jose Mari Chan



HEALTHY family Marisun, Ella and Jake Uichico

Russel Watson in Manila; alcoholic's mobile, anyone?

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

MUST-WATCH concert—**Russel Watson.** One of the top male singer-performers blessed with a powerful and angelic voice, Russell Watson, is coming to Manila.

From being a pub singer, he rose to international prominence as a classical singer in the mold of **Andrea Bocelli** and **Mario Frangoulis.** His debut album, "The Voice," sold millions, opening up avenues for him to perform for European royalty like **Prince Charles**, heads of state, A-list celebrities and even the **Pope.**

His latest album "Amore Musica" is causing a stir in the charts with songs penned by Oscar-winning **Diane Warren** and **Gary Barlow.** What is amazing about his repertoire is that Watson is as comfortable singing opera as well as standards (from "Nessun Dorma" to "Bridge Over Troubled Water").

The concert will be at the PICC Plenary Hall on Feb. 10. A portion of the proceeds will go to the victims of Infanta, Quezon landslides and floods and the Asian tsunami disaster. Watson, in fact, has recorded a charity single along with **Cliff Richard** and **Boy George**, titled "Grief Never Grows Old," making him the first entertainer to come to Manila who is lending his time and talent to help out the victims.

This is a definite must-see concert. Call TicketWorld at 8915610.

Best new TV series—"Desperate Housewives." It's the most popular TV series in America and I can't get enough of it. It even made me forget that other series that had four women living in New York.

What is it about? Well it's a little bit of "Sex and the City," "Knots Landing," "Melrose Place" and "Twin Peaks." In each episode the four main characters (played by **Teri Hatcher, Marcia Cross, Eva Longoria, Felicity Huffman,** plus a bitchy, sexy **Nicolette Sheridan**) tackle such issues as adultery, suicide, loneliness, raising hyperactive kids, murder, pill popping, double crossing, rude neighbors and of course, sex.

This is all in the backdrop of the very pristine neighborhood of Wisteria Lane. Now that sounds familiar. I'm sure it's happening in your village as you read this.

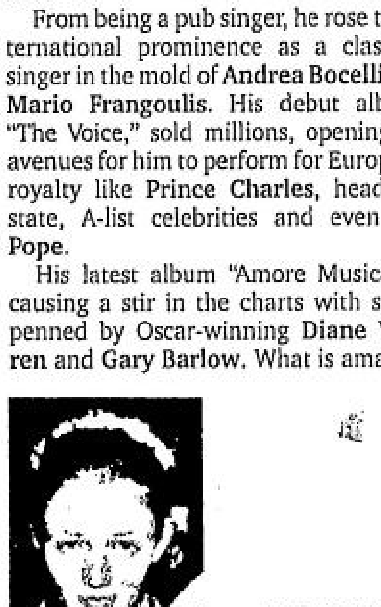
Must-have CD—"The Chillout Project House Sessions" by Anton Ramos. Currently playing on my Ipod is Anton Ramos' second compilation of lounge and down tempo grooves that's simply amazing. "The Chillout Project" started in 1997, which was part of a local radio program and still can be heard on Joey 92.3 under the name "License to Chill." TCPH-1, his first compilation, is the largest-selling dance compilation in the country. So, if you think that such music has gone the way of techno (Think: extinct) you are very wrong. "The Chillout Project" is available at Music One and all Tower Record outlets.

Dialing under the influence. Here's something for Globe and Smart (or Smart and Globe) to consider. Australia-based Virgin Mobile is offering a new service for drunk dialers. Who are they? Those party people who have had too much to drink and happen to either call all their friends in their directory because of their stupor or happen to sleep on their phone because they passed out. By simply dialing a number, Virgin mobile blocks all the incoming and outgoing calls till a certain hour. Sounds great, right?

Something to watch out for... Tim Yap's Embassy (bar/restaurant) at The Fort... Colin Mackay (Sala, People's Palace) moving to Makati in a yet undisclosed place... The concert of everyone's favorite male singer, **Martin Nievera,** and international singer **Patti Austin** on Jan. 29 at the Araneta Coliseum (call Ticketnet at 9115555)... the Golden Globe Awards on Jan. 17 on Star World—live via satellite starting at 9 a.m... Also on Star World (live via satellite) the premiere of everyone's favorite, "American Idol," Jan. 19, 8 p.m... **Kylie Minogue**'s new CD and the soundtrack from the "Bridget Jones Diary: Edge of Reason," must-buy!... the ongoing Pepato's truffle festival, simply scrumptious! Book now (tel no. 7572636)... American films, I honestly tried watching the Metro Manila Film Festival, caught one and was really disappointed. So till something of caliber comes out can't wait for the US films, especially "Meet the Fockers"... and of course, here comes the shameless plug: Watch "Look Who's talking" (hosts: **Johnny Litton, Tessa Valdes** and this writer) every Wednesday, 10 p.m. on Channel 5.

The new brooch—headbands. The brooch was the accessory to wear in 2004. For 2005, the accessory du jour is the headband. If you think it's just going to be plain and with a ribbon, you are still in an '80s time warp. This year's headbands have to be embellished with semi-precious stones, Swarovski crystals and the like. If you still can't find it here, wait about two weeks and we are sure most fashionable brands will be selling it.

E-mail the author at antonsd@philtatler.com

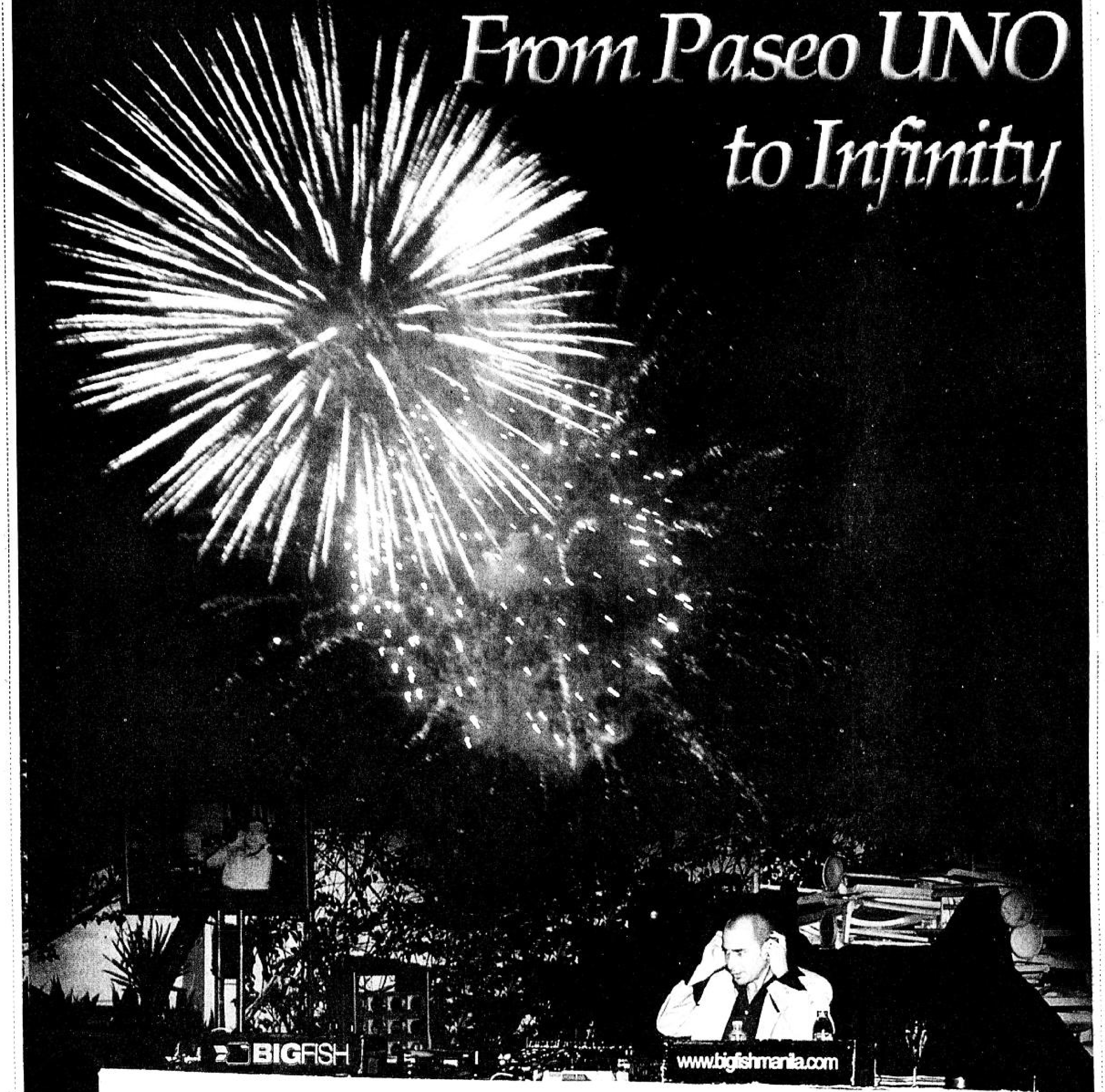


MUST-HAVE accessory: embellished headbands

RUSSEL Watson, "The Voice," is coming to Manila.

A Tribute to our SMART Infinity Subscribers

From Paseo UNO to Infinity



It's a group hug for Lord Ancheta, Arnold Martinez & Kaye Quema

Aquino, [illegible] Pascual & Ben Chan smile ear to ear for the New Year

Ogie Alcasid

The unmistakably classy entrance to Paseo Uno

There was only one place to see and be seen after the fireworks ushered in 2005. Soon after midnight, Manila's trendy partyphiles braved the smoky, firecracker-littered streets of Manila and trooped to the Mandarin Oriental's glam Paseo Uno in droves to kick off the first party of the New Year with an almighty bang! And what a spectacle it was... With the deep and sexy grooves courtesy of Elian Habayeb of Lounge, Benjo Marquez and Johnboy of Team BIGFISH, the SMART Infinity-sponsored event even boasted its own outdoor poolside lounge for subscribers and special guests who enjoyed an overflowing supply of Moët & Chandon till the wee hours.

SMART Infinity subscribers got the usual royal treatment and gained free admission to the most swinging New Year's Eve party Manila has seen in years. The Mandarin Oriental's pool itself was temporarily transformed into a dance floor to accommodate the ever-growing crowd—a thick sheet of fibre glass was creatively laid over a section of the fully-lit pool allowing revellers to "walk on water" and dance to the pulsating beats emanating from the powerful woofers in the garden. Even a brief drizzle spell couldn't dampen the spirits of this elite and energetic party set as more and more people piled through the doors throughout the morning, eager to catch a glimpse of why this party was the talk of the town.

This was just a taste of things to come from SMART Infinity in 2005. Because when it comes to enjoying life's best, no one knows how to bring it to you like SMART Infinity.

Sister power: Lani and Liza Pillinger

Dynamite duo Bambina de Ocampo & Rose Montenegro

Revellers admired the fireworks display

Paseo Uno Loungers share that vibe

Say "cheese" to 2005!

"We like to party, we like to party!"

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Nokia 3100	65% OFF	30% OFF	20% OFF	55% OFF	35% OFF	35% OFF	25% OFF	25% OFF	60% OFF	25% OFF
Nokia 3120	65% OFF	30% OFF	20% OFF	55% OFF	35% OFF	35% OFF	25% OFF	25% OFF	60% OFF	25% OFF
Nokia 3220	65% OFF	30% OFF	20% OFF	55% OFF	35% OFF	35% OFF	25% OFF	25% OFF	60% OFF	25% OFF
Nokia 6230	65% OFF	30% OFF	20% OFF	55% OFF	35% OFF	35% OFF	25% OFF	25% OFF	60% OFF	25% OFF
Nokia 6260	65% OFF	30% OFF	20% OFF	55% OFF	35% OFF	35% OFF	25% OFF	25% OFF	60% OFF	25% OFF
Nokia 6600	65% OFF	30% OFF	20% OFF	55% OFF	35% OFF	35% OFF	25% OFF	25% OFF	60% OFF	25% OFF
Nokia 7610	65% OFF	30% OFF	20% OFF	55% OFF	35% OFF	35% OFF	25% OFF	25% OFF	60% OFF	25% OFF
Motorola C375	85% OFF	40% OFF	30% OFF	75% OFF	45% OFF	45% OFF	35% OFF	30% OFF	80% OFF	35% OFF
Motorola C650	65% OFF	30% OFF	20% OFF	55% OFF	35% OFF	35% OFF	25% OFF	25% OFF	60% OFF	25% OFF
Sony Ericsson K500i	65% OFF	30% OFF	20% OFF	55% OFF	35% OFF	35% OFF	25% OFF	25% OFF	60% OFF	25% OFF
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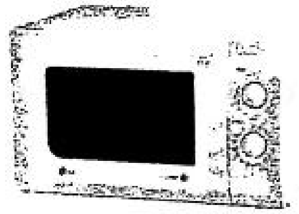

LG Microwave Oven
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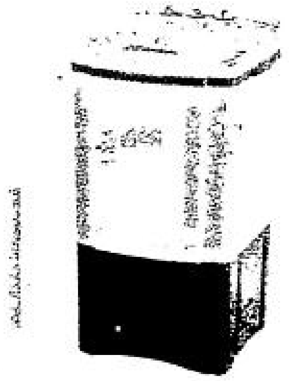

LG Washing Machine
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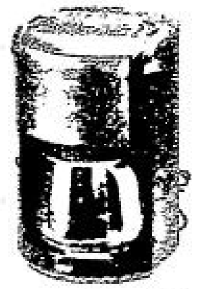

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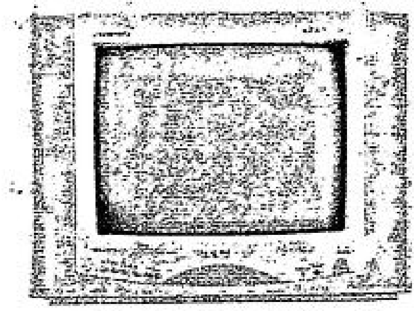

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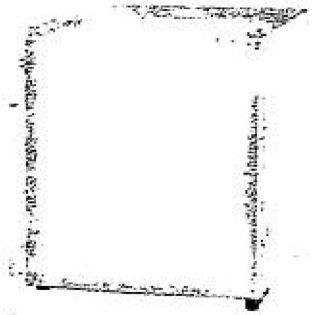

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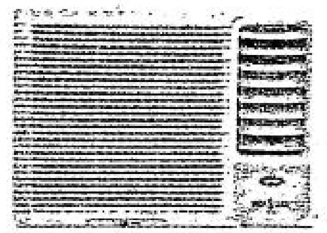

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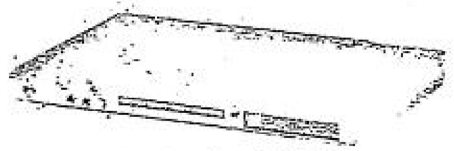

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6078, Series of 2004.

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Gardening in a glass bowl

By Serapion S. Metilla
Contributor

GREEN TIPS

IF you want a garden that will live long indoors, have a terrarium or a garden inside a glass case. A terrarium is not only artistic but a curiosity as well.

How did the terrarium plant art start? More than 100 years ago, a certain Dr. Nathaniel Ward of London found that most of the plants around a factory were dying, probably because of pollution. But he observed that ferns and other plants inside a house nearby grew well behind a glass window.

He tried planting in an enclosed laboratory jar and brought "his garden" near the factory. The plants lived better than those outside.

Called the Wardian Case, this became a standard laboratory experiment in science classes throughout the world. From the experiments, the procedure became popular and eventually became an art.

Some of the glass containers that can be used are the demi-john locally called *dama juana*, large candy jar, large wine bottle, fish bowl, alum glass case and/or any other container made of clear glass and large enough to contain an arrangement of various miniature plants.

Procedure

First, clean the container. Use those that are crystal clear, not colored. Prepare the materials—pulverized wood charcoal; potting mixture (one part garden soil, one part river sand and two parts compost sterilized); miniature plants like rattan seedlings, ti, Dracaena sanderiana known locally as white corn, Dracaena godseffiana florida beauty, miniature fern and carpet moss. You also need white pebbles (Boracay No. 5) for ground cover.

For large, open-mouthed containers like an aquarium case, you may use drift wood and/or rocks for accent.

In the case of the *dama juana* and other small-mouthed bottles, you need some gadgets. Using a paper funnel, introduce first the pulverized charcoal (about an inch thick), then the potting mixture (two-three inches depending on the size of the container).

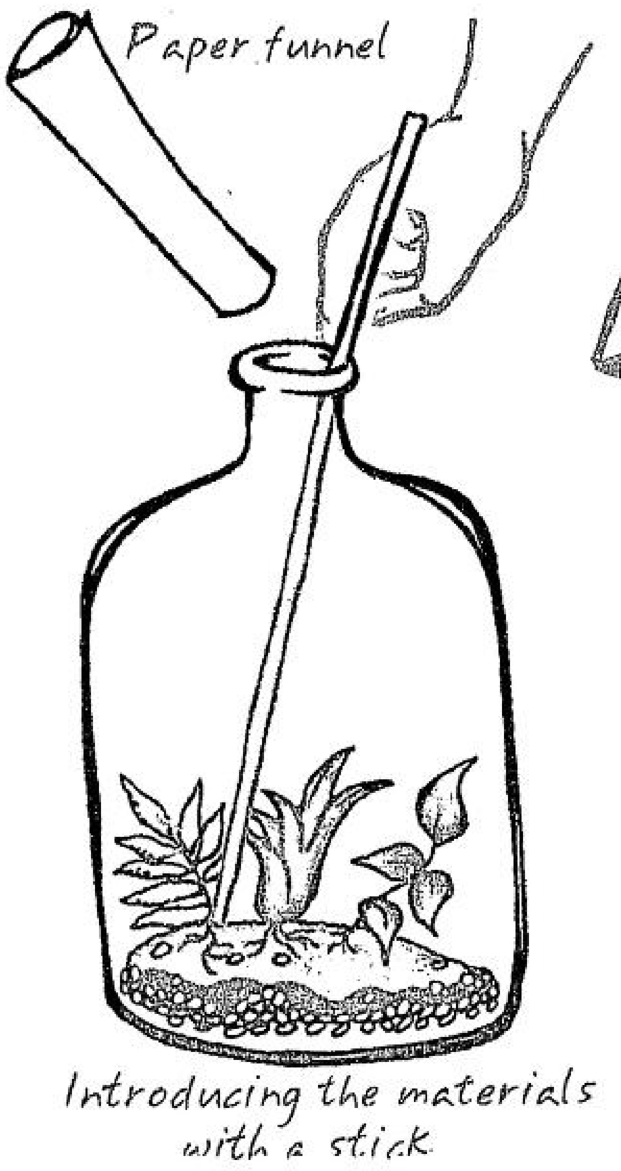
Then drop the plants. Use a bamboo or wooden stick to push the rooted portion into the medium little by little until the plant stands. Here dexterity is needed.

Try to group the plants in such a way that some spaces are left for the carpet moss and the pebbles. Then introduce about ½ to 1½ cups of clean water depending upon the size of the bottle. After this, you do not have to apply water anymore if the bottle is completely closed.

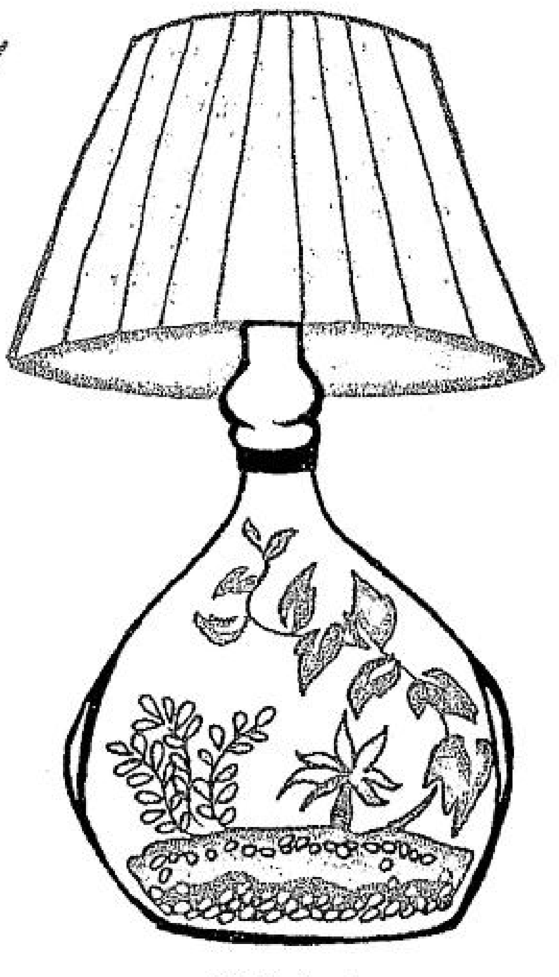
Terrarium is intended for indoors, not just for homes but also for offices, restaurants, hotels, hospitals and other establishments. To keep the plants alive, you have to put a lampshade over the *dama juana*. If you use the aquarium type, you have to use the florescent type.

The light should be switched on at about 6 a.m.-10 p.m. everyday without fail or for at least 16 hours daily. Mist the leaves of the plants once every three or four days when an open glass case is used.

For more about terrarium making, contact this writer at 9394593.



Introducing the materials with a stick



Fitted with a lampshade

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

Pond's Expands its Oil & Blemish Control Range

Pond's Facial Washes Made Even Better!

Pond's, the skin expert and leading skin care brand of Unilever Philippines, expands its **Oil & Blemish Control Platform** with the introduction of its new improved facial washes - Pond's Oil Removing Refreshing Wash, Pond's Antibacterial Facial Scrub, and Pond's Pore Refining Cleanser & Toner.

With ingredient specially formulated by the Ponds Institute keen experts, Ponds introduces this revolutionary range of facial washes to provide superior oil and pimple control action, giving every Filipina's face the extra care it deserves.

The new Pond's Oil & Blemish Control Facial Washes are formulated with harder working ingredients for more effective oil and blemish control. And it is available in 3 variants especially formulated to cater to various skin types: Oily skin, Pimple-prone skin, & skin with visible pores.

"With these three facial wash variants, consumers can select from a wider range of products to suit their individual skin care needs," explains Francis Flores, Pond's senior brand manager.

Although the Pond's Oil & Blemish Control Facial Washes work hard to effectively remove deep-seated dirt, they are still very gentle to use everyday. Providing more than what ordinary hard soaps can give, the Pond's Oil & Blemish Control Facial Washes cleanse down to the pores, and also, depending on individual facial needs, refresh, moisturize and tighten pores.

The **Pond's Oil-Removing Refreshing Wash** is for women with combination (skin that has dry and oily patches at the same time) to oily skin. It is a revitalizing oil-free facial wash that thoroughly cleanses, removes oil, and refreshes with its unique 3-Step Oil Management System. First, *Menthol Nutriclear Beads* effectively dissolve oil and deep-seated dirt. Then, *Witch Hazel Extract* tightens pores to help balance oil production of the skin. Lastly, *Menthol Extracts* cool, refresh, and revitalize oil-prone skin.

When used daily, the **Pond's Anti-Bacterial Facial Scrub** gently removes dead skin cells and fights bacteria for that extra clean skin down to the pores. It has *Gentle Nutriclear Microscrubs* that remove the dead skin cells while unclogging the pores of deep-seated dirt. It also contains *Bactistat* that fights pimple-causing bacteria and *Pro-moisture Deep Cleansers* that thoroughly cleanses the skin while retaining its natural moisture. The Pond's Anti-Bacterial Facial Scrub is the Pond's facial wash that's perfect for Filipinas with pimple-prone skin.

The third facial wash in the Pond's Oil & Blemish Control Platform is the **Pond's Pore-Refining Cleanser and Toner** for women who have skin with visible pores. This extraordinary 2-in-1 facial wash effectively cleanses the face while tightening the pores. Its *Pro-moisture Deep Cleansers* thoroughly cleanse the skin while retaining its natural moisture; while the *Nutriclear Toner* helps tighten visible pores, especially on the nose. This Pond's facial wash variant also has *Bactistat* that fights pimple-causing bacteria.

With a fresh look and an even better formula, Pond's provides women with effective skin solutions to refresh, clean, and manage skin, allowing women to be as beautiful as they want to be! Get those new Pond's Facial Washes the next time you are in the grocery or beauty store and witness the Pond's cleansing action and skin care expertise first-hand.

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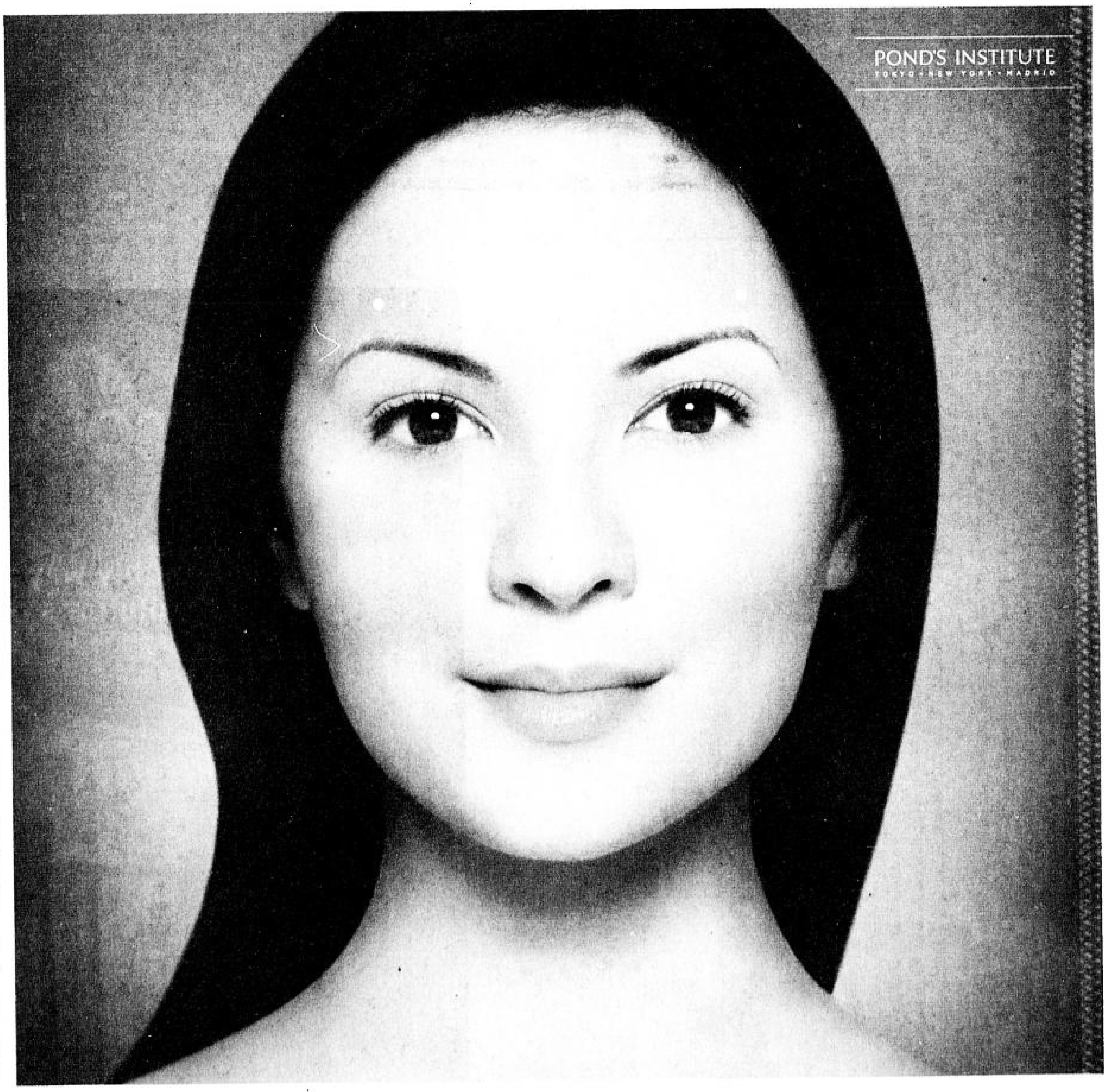


Oil glands are more prevalent on the face than the body.

In fact [illegible] prevalent on the T-zone. Whic[illegible] why [illegible] is the oili[illegible] ea of yo[illegible] [illegible] eds [illegible] pecial care, the kind you [illegible] find in Po[illegible] Oil Re[illegible] [illegible] Wash [illegible] a 3-step Oil Managemen[illegible] fro[illegible]

Oil-free cleansing gel and Menthol Vitaclear beads clean tho[illegible]ughly
whil[illegible] Bacstitat fights pimple-causing bacteria
Witch Hazel Extract manages oil production
Menthol Extracts refr[illegible] and [illegible] vitalize your fac[illegible]

[illegible] re fresh, cool, bea[illegible]tiful

POND'S OIL-REMOVING REFRESHING WASH As beautiful as yo[illegible] want [illegible] be

Nature strikes back

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THIS IS being written in the wake of tsunamis that devastated coastlines facing the Indian Ocean. The catastrophe swept through several of our neighbors in Southeast Asia and the death toll, as of this writing, threatens to come up to hundreds of thousands.

Rescue and relief work, as much as is possible in the midst of so much destruction, continues today. And for us who have the luxury of viewing the events from a safe distance, the lessons are clear.

Nature is not always docile. For so long, humans have abused it. So it should not surprise us when it gives us a dose of our own medicine. When we cut down whole forests, the trees must experience a kind of tsunami of their own. Since they can't talk or walk, we may not know about it.

But we should. And that is what should be foremost in our minds as we look at our mountains and seas. Tsunamis may not result from human activities, unlike floods and avalanches, but they are signs that not all's right with our world.

Let's make this planet as safe as we can by learning to live with Nature, by treating her right.

Panay Avenue

We faced problems of our own as the year ended, mostly involving trees—not as tragic by comparison, but problems just the same. There is the case of the trees on Panay Avenue, Quezon City, which is being widened to ease traffic.

Some residents protested this move by the city government on grounds that it would remove the residential character of their street. For this they were stoned and jailed for three days.

Other residents, however, sent us a letter—12 residents attached their signatures—signifying their desire to have the project continued. They denied negative reports on the project, including tree-cutting activities which we had questioned in this section.

To this, the Residents of Panay Avenue, as the letter writers call themselves, replied: "The trees to be cut down include very tall coconut trees, bottle brush tree, one fire tree, two golden shower trees, *gmelina* trees, betel nut trees, which are not 50 years old... and not mahogany or *narra*... We value our environment. We do love and protect our trees since we planted most of them. But we will not stand in the way of progress for the betterment of the majority."

It's their decision, of course, but we would still like to call their attention to the fact that they have agreed to the cutting down of more than 10 trees. While there is no *narra* or mahogany among them, the others are no less useful and important. But we must be barking up the wrong tree(s), if you'll pardon the pun.

Tree-cutting official

For doing the same thing (cutting trees), the superintendent of the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm in Palawan was relieved of his job. He ordered prison inmates to cut down 314 old acacia trees in an area reserved for resettlement.

According to reports of the Southern Luzon bureau of this newspaper, the inmates had been cutting and uprooting for two days when apprehended by police, acting on a tip by concerned citizens. The inmates said they acted on orders of some top prison officials. The wood was to be used for firewood and the area cleared covered about two hectares.

Aggrieved

No institution could feel more aggrieved than the University of the Philippines-Los Baños (UPLB) when it was criticized recently for allowing a *dao* tree to be cut down. The *dao* was a meter away from the asphalt road in front of the Student Union (SU) building, and its leaning position put passersby at risk.

UPLB, which is mandated to take charge of its mountain ecosystem through the Makiling Center for Mountain Ecosystems (a unit of the College of Forestry and Natural Resources), was quick to point out why cutting the *dao* was absolutely necessary.

From findings of its team of forest pathologists, tree surgeons, tree physiologists and other experts, the UPLB faculty and administrative staff reported that the fungi infestation had weakened the tree's roots, causing it to lean dangerously. The impaired root system started, they said, during construction of the new SU building.

Even as caretakers tried to save the tree by pruning and bracing it, the fungi infection had spread. The latest typhoon worsened its pathetic condition. And so it was cut.

New nature reserve

Leisure Farms in Lemery, Batangas, has gradually developed into a nature reserve as well as a farm estate. Its newest feature is the Forest Trail Lake, which opens up to one of the dense forest areas around it.

Forest Trail Lake is a 500-meter trek through hanging bridges and paths lined with trees. Clean water streams run alongside the paths. A slow walk through the pathways bring into focus the variety of trees in the forested areas, as well as the marine life that abound in the waters.

Birdwatchers and nature lovers in general have all the opportunity to view the variety of birds, insects and reptiles that make this their habitat. Gazebos are positioned along the way to give trekkers a chance to rest and sort out nature's offerings here.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

Widower falls for married woman

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

I have been a widower for the past 13 years. I am 46 years old and my youngest son is now 21. I haven't remarried despite the willingness of some of my former girlfriends. No one among them could make my heart palpitate.

In July 2000 I met a pretty married woman three years my junior at a PTA (Parents-Teachers Association) meeting where we were both officers. I was impressed by her beauty and something in me awakened the moment we shook hands. We became friends after that... and would go to the mall and fast-food centers on our spare time.

I could not hide my feelings and soon courted her. In 2001 we started our affair. We (tried to arrange) for her to leave her husband and even planned to marry secretly and live in another place.

Two years later her husband discovered our affair. She admitted everything to him. He forgave her even if she never asked for it. During this time we just sent text messages to each other because she could no longer go out alone. I was even threatened by her husband.

(But) we resumed our affair early last year, (which) went on until our misunderstanding later that year.

I've tried to get her out of my mind (accepting) that she's married and will never be my lifetime partner. But there's not a moment that I don't think of her. How can I forget her?

DANILO

Trying to forget her now—right this minute—is like asking a baby not to cry! Emotions are not like faucets that you can turn on and off. But you are on the right path. You've already accepted that she's not available to you for the long haul.

Now, open your heart to other more lasting possibilities. Take solace in the thought that nature does not allow a vacuum. Weeds and grasses sprout to cover empty spaces. Hobbies, recreation and good friends can help fill an empty heart.

You can't move forward if you keep looking back. If your heart was awakened once, trust in the universe that another will come your way.

You lost a love that wasn't meant to be. Just you wait patiently.

A moment of weakness

I'm a 38-year-old executive of a multinational company, married for 14 years with two kids. For the past seven years, my husband had been unfaithful to me. Some of his affairs, he admitted, some he denied. Through it all, I remained a simple, plain-looking individual, doing my best to be a good daughter, employee, wife and mother.

My problem started during my business trip to Japan. I met a Korean executive in his mid-40s. We talked for two hours on our first meeting. That night, I was unable to sleep and just thought of him. I felt something very special for him.

On the third day when I could no longer control myself, I called him up and invited him for dinner. He brought me to a very classy restaurant with... romantic music (playing in the background) and candles all around. The atmosphere was so beautiful, I (almost cried)... we talked about anything and everything.

(In) his car afterwards, I asked him to kiss me as a memento of the night and to assure myself I wasn't dreaming. He was very surprised, but he obliged. I had the most unforgettable kiss in my lifetime. (Later) he said he wanted us to be just friends—nothing more—since we both had families. I never felt more ashamed of myself than in that silent 30-minute drive back to my hotel.

When I came home, I wrote him a letter to explain and apologize, hoping to (lessen) the shame I brought to myself, my company, my country. I told him that, in him, I found the man of my dreams and couldn't help asking for that kiss.

He (replied) and, the gentleman that he was, said he understood. I stopped myself from further disgrace by not sending him another e-mail. But this December, I sent him a card, two Christmas CDs and Nat King Cole's "Unforgettable." He sent, in return, a card and a lipstick.

How can I stop this sinful feeling? I, of all people, know how painful infidelity is. I now look for his qualities in all the men I meet every day, and they all pale in comparison. I keep thinking about him, I miss him and I'm so in love with him. What shall I do to get him out of my system? How can I forget him?

NATHALIE

Wouldn't life be simpler if there is a magic pill to lessen our embarrassment, and make us forget an illicit passionate encounter or stop missing a loved one?

But life is meant to be savored to its core—with laughter, ecstasy, tears, pain, hurt, humiliation, agony, loneliness—the list is long. Those are the very essence, the very flavors, the very colors that make living so profound and exciting.

Emotion-wise, you entered a one-way street with this Korean. It happens. Forget your embarrassment and shame. Move on. Don't agonize over him. Just enjoy the memories. Savor them. For a few short days you experienced the highest and the lowest of emotions. Be grateful... be happy... Consider yourself blessed because however "sinful" your meeting with this person was, fate allowed you a taste of heaven for one fleeting moment.

With all the creeps, jerks and a**holes crowding this planet, and so many frustrations, depressions and loneliness that batter marriages—don't you want to relish the beautiful moments you had with this fantastic guy a wee bit longer? Why would you want to forget such an episode? You'll have all the tomorrows for that!

Send your e-mail to the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject-Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

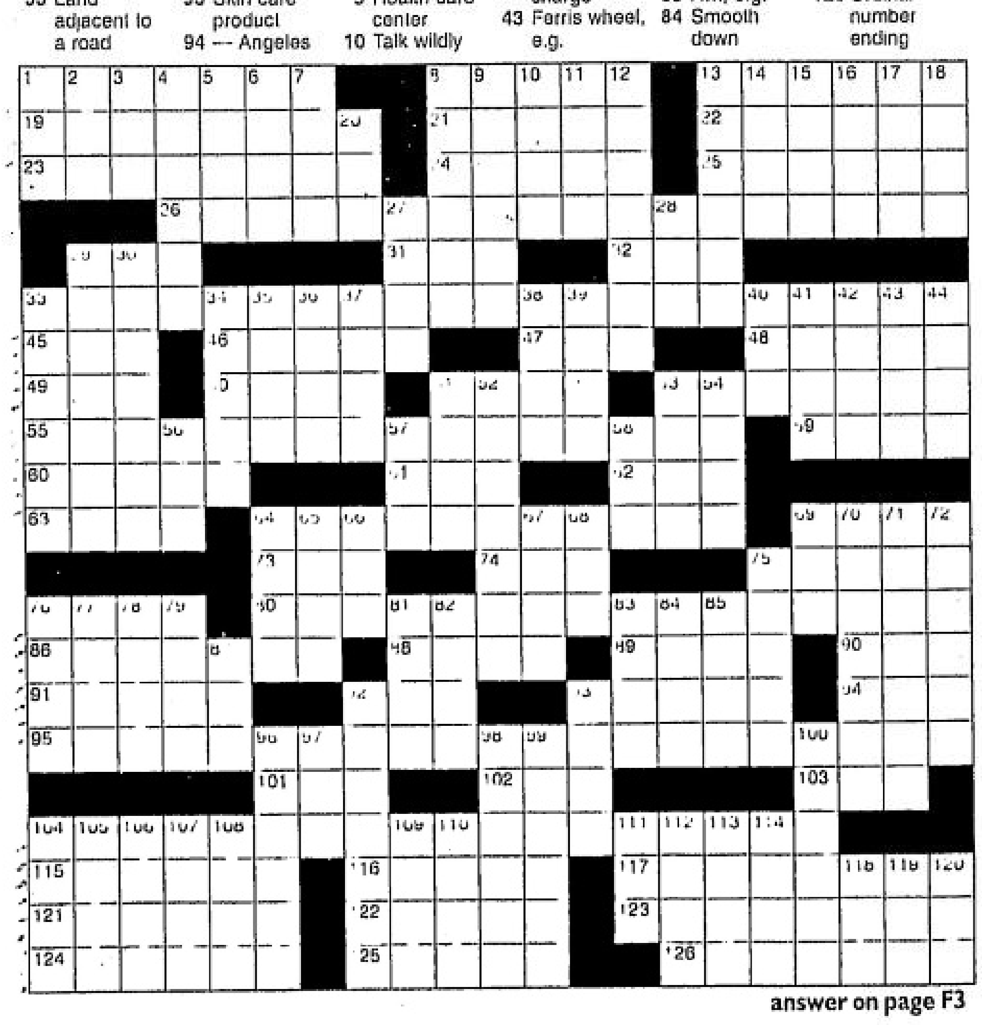
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

HALEY SHOPS

ACROSS
1 Collects
8 "Beat it!"
13 Method
19 Oxygen carriers in the blood
21 "Bewitched" aunt
22 Indigenous
23 Warns a la Fido
24 Hippo's hangout
25 Like gullies
26 Start of a riddle
29 "Ben-Hur" studio
31 Ryukyu wrap
32 NASA "thumbs up"
33 Riddle, part 2
45 Meal scrap
46 Some horizontal lines, in geometry
47 Wall Streeter's deg.
48 Lukewarm
49 Make a choice
50 "Get — gear!"
51 Iraqi, e.g.
53 Land adjacent to a road
55 Riddle, part 3
59 High schooler
60 Valid
61 Video recorder, briefly
62 Prefix with centennial
63 Biblical country
64 Riddle, part 4
69 R.B.I., e.g.
73 Prefix with 13-Across
74 Rock's — Speedwagon
75 "Once — time . "
76 Slimy veggie
80 Riddle, part 5
86 Frown on
88 Foot's five
89 Honolulu locale
90 Former Press Secretary Fleischer
91 Some aria singers
92 Cable TV's — -Fi
93 Skin care product
94 — Angeles
95 End of the riddle
101 Pirate's place
102 Get it wrong
103 Tack on
104 Riddle's answer
115 Pretentious
116 Burst forth
117 Manage
121 Pay back
122 Actress Zellweger
123 Let have it verbally
124 Genetics pioneer
125 Prophets
126 German, in German

DOWN
1 29-Across motto starter
2 Game pieces
3 Inits. on a toothpaste tube
4 Pinch pennies
5 — -help book
6 Actress Lanchester
7 Thick slice
8 Copyist
9 Health-care center
10 Talk wildly
11 Belligerent god
12 Sicilian wine
13 Furtive
14 Tall tale
15 Stash away
16 Neap, e.g.
17 At all times
18 Ancient Persian
20 "Fifth Beatle" Sutcliffe
27 Soaks (up)
28 Witty saying
29 Changed form gradually
30 "I'm outta here"
33 Play the flute
34 Have life
35 Gp. formed in 1949
36 Angle between a leaf and its branch
37 Transmit
38 Colorful Apple
39 Shortened wd.
40 Filthy place
41 Crammer's concern
42 Aunt Bee's charge
43 Ferris wheel, e.g.
44 Pristine place
51 Room to swing —
52 Ruefulness
53 Cry "Heads up!" to
54 Surrounded by
56 Actor Curry
57 Frigid
58 LAX info
64 At one's — and call
65 160 square rods
66 Startling cry
67 Positive voters
68 Abel, to Eve
69 Facial offerer
70 Summed up
71 R2-D2, e.g.
72 Follower of Lao-tzu
75 She answered to Captain Kirk
76 Anita of jazz
77 Metric weight
78 Run before V
79 Tons
81 Strong urge
82 Silk, in Somme
83 Awl, e.g.
84 Smooth down
85 One of the five W's
87 Somewhat (Suff.)
92 Ice-show performers
93 Revolve
96 Negev locale
97 Teachers' org
98 One crying
99 Spouts rhetoric
100 Polo stick
104 Bridge coup
105 Give birth to
106 Yemeni city
107 Caring
108 Razor feature
109 Sloth's home
110 Debussy's "Clair de —"
111 Parched
112 Oboe insert
113 Make eyes at
114 Doozy
118 Spots on TV
119 "Tic — Dough"
120 Ordinal number ending



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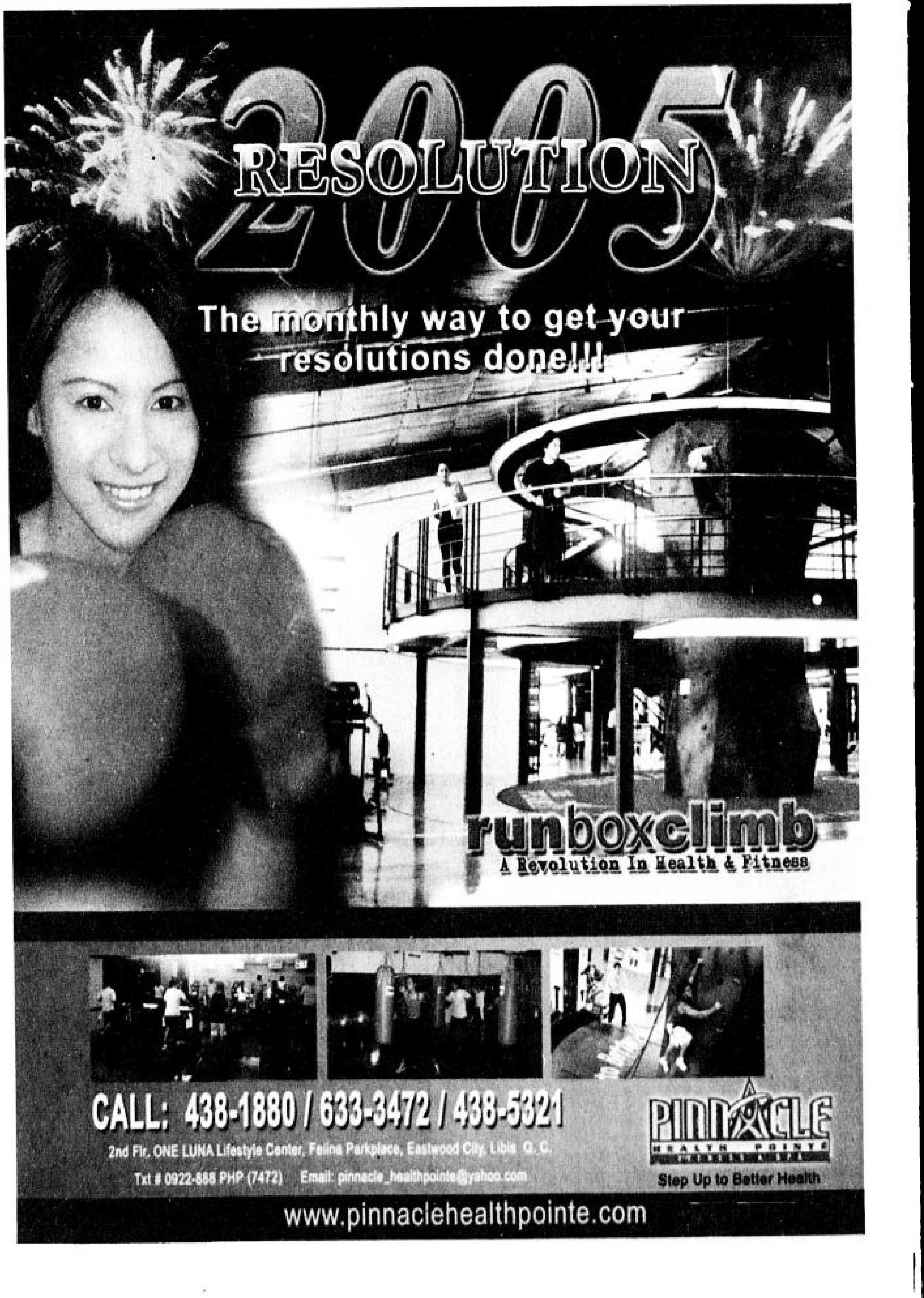

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125 years of teaching distinguished women

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

THE LATEST alumni homecoming of the Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepcion (CIC) was the grandest ever as it also launched the school's 125th founding anniversary. Established by the Daughters of Charity in 1880, it has taught some of the most distinguished women in the south.

Many still recall the ornate building of the Spanish era, which burned down during the war. It was located where the Toyota display center now stood in downtown Cebu.

Since the 1940s, CIC has been on busy Gorordo Avenue. Due to space limitations, CIC has not gone co-ed, and accepts boys only in the elementary grades. My two sons studied there.

Lavish productions

Called simply Inmaculada, mention of the school evokes varied memories in different people. Some recall the *veladas* and *zarzuelas* of prewar days, and the lavish annual productions of classic works or Broadway hits in the postwar auditorium.

Unforgettable were **Myra Gonzales** as a fairy flying across the stage in "A Midsummer's Night Dream"; **Sanchez Torrefranca** impersonating Cyrano de Bergerac, long nose, white plume and all; **Cookie Escaño** as the vulnerable Juliet of Shakespeare's tragedy; and **Juanita Wonderly** in "El Conde de Luxemburgo," and as Guinevere in "Camelot" with **Bob Zozobrado** as Lancelot, and Anna in "The King and I" with **Tommy Abuel.**

Even I appeared in bit roles—the grandfather in "Oliver," President Roosevelt in "Annie," the waltzing British Ambassador in "The King and I."

The homecoming rites began with a Mass by CIC alumnus, **Fr. Faustino Martin, CM**, at the chapel dedicated to the Miraculous Medal. The traditional *chocolate con churros* followed served by the *madres*. Other features were Christmas bazaar, family day activities, and the opening of an exhibit at the CIC museum depicting 125 years of existence.

Night school

In the evening, ticket-holders attended a fund-raising gala at the Atlantic Hall of the Waterfront Hotel for the benefit of the alumnae's charitable projects. One project is the revival of the night school for poor but deserving students.

Ramona Aliño, Monet to family and colleagues, was the program host. She had some fond memories to share. Mention of **Sor Clementina Iglesias**, DC, for a long time the school's head, took us on a trip down memory lane. It is said she was born to a ducal family in Spain but left her castle to join the *madres*.

Sor Clementina had a musical voice and sparkling wit. She had a beautiful, kindly face that glowed as she glided through the rose garden she nurtured, or when she attended some of the school's Spanish musicals. For her golden jubilee, **Don Lorenzo Escaño** and his wife **Doña Piling** staged a spectacular production of "Gigantes y Cabezudos."

Our reverie was interrupted by Monet asking everyone to shout loudly, "Three cheers for CIC!" From our table rang the most energetic "Hip, hip hooray," from **Ana Maria Escaño**, the quintessential Inmaculadista. Her clinging flower-print chiffon number drew admiration. "El Corte Ingles," she confided, dropping the name of Spain's most prestigious department store.

Silver trumpets blared to announce the entrance of past presidents of the CIC alumni—regal as queens in a stately procession: Gen. **Antonia Javier, Rosanna Javier Arcenas, Cirilita Cabahug Fortuna** and **Anita Cabahug Trasmonte.**

THE CIC alumni officers: Stella Bernabe, Marichu Jimenea, Mariter Klepp, Cynthia Dagus, Bernadette Jingco, Floram Limotlimot, Lourdes Celis and Aida Ocampo

Kudos

They were followed by the current CIC alumni officers, all of whom deserve kudos for the success of this and other events of the jubilee celebrations: president **Stella Solero Bernabe,** vice president **Marichu Jimenea**, secretaries **Mariter Dumon Klepp** and **Cynthia Yap Dagus**, treasurer and event chair **Bernadette Jingco,** her assistant **Floram Camomot Limotlimot,** auditor **Lourdes Trinidad Celis,** PRO's **Adelaida Escoto Ocampo** and **Josefa Veloso Oropesa,** and director **Laura Ouano Villanueva.**

Much applause greeted the entrance of CIC school head Sr. **Zenaida Condes,** with Sr. **Teresa Espedido** and adviser **Victoria Liao Lamco.**

Dinner was served and a delightful program followed. Guest star was CIC alumna and singer **Raki Vega**, who had just become "Born Diva" champion. The CIC Sisters performed, too, calling their number Sister Act, what else?

Jubilarians presented song and dance numbers. Alumnae with good figures and the right wardrobe staged a fashion parade that had everyone ooh-ing and aah-ing.

For nine evenings, the CIC auditorium registered a full house for the musical presentation "Rhapsody" that featured excerpts from CIC musicals staged through the years. More than 100 girls composed the cast and chorus. Sr. Zenaida Condes was on top of it all, with **Agnes Apalisok** as stage director and the excellent **Mila Nadala** as musical director.

Mila used to head the CIC School of Music before it was phased out. She led the musical accompaniment every evening, playing the piano. Playing the flutes, violins and other stringed instruments were **Sarah Gonzalez, Hara Hernando, Doris Malaque, Suzette Melleza, Antonette Gorgobia, Virgilio Ylaya, Martin Alvarez** and **Omar Mataganas.**

Lourdes Amejo narrated the show, identifying the sources of the pieces presented—"Oliver," "Camelot," "The King and I," "The Sound of Music," "Annie," "Chorus Line," "Adiyornamento," "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Amoma" (the story of Sisa from Noli Me Tangere), and "Pippin."

Those who missed "Rhapsody" are clamoring for encores.

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BOB GARON

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Sto. Niño feast on Jan. 16

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

IMMEDIATELY after the feast of the Epiphany, churches prepare for the feast of the Sto. Niño which falls on the third Sunday of January. Novena Masses began Jan. 7 and will end on the 15th.

Fiesta Masses will be held Jan. 16, particularly in the parishes of Sto. Niño de Pandacan, Sto. Niño de Tondo, Sto. Niño de Cebu in Cebu City, and Sto. Niño Parish in San Fernando, Pampanga.

The *Congregacion del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus* will hold Novena Masses at 6 p.m., Jan. 20-28, at the PNB Financial Center. It will have its 26th grand procession at 3 p.m., Jan. 30, from the Philtrade on Roxas Blvd. to Quirino Grandstand. Theme of "Fiesta del Sto. Niño 2005" is "To the Eucharist through Mary, Mother of Jesus."

An exhibit of at least 400 Sto. Niño images will open at 5 p.m., Jan. 20, followed by the Holy Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Teodoro Bacani. Registration of images will be 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Jan. 17-18. This year's officers are Ogie Atos, president; Nolie Hans, vice president; Jesse Nell, secretary; and Mel Chionglo, treasurer. Board chair is Jing Chua, while chair emeritus is Tony Adriano. Founding chair is Ben Farrales.

Common devotion

The *congregacion* was founded 25 years ago by a group with a common devotion to the child Jesus led by Ben Farrales. Original members were Ben Farrales, Rey Bautista, Willi Buhay, Gang Gomez (now Dom Martin de Jesus, OSB), Rey Gutierrez, Nolie Hans, Efren de Jose, Leo Limpo, Manny Punzalan, Bobby Valdomar and Sonny Viana. The *congregacion* was formally formed in August, 1979. On Oct. 27, 1979, Jaime Cardinal Sin canonically established the group and appointed Auxiliary Bishop Teodoro Buhain as spiritual director. The event was held at the Carmel Chapel of St. Therese of the Child Jesus where the four-foot image of the "Nombre" was also blessed. The image's arms are outstretched in welcome and embrace.

The first official fiesta was held in 1980. New members were inducted the next year: Tony Adriano, Ogie Atos, Mel Chionglo, Manolo Estrella, Henry Manlulu, Nanding Marasigan and Jess Salgado. The following year, Jay Cariño, Chito Ilagan and German Malabanan joined the group.

After four years of apostolic work, His Holiness Pope John Paul II gave his Papal Blessing in 1983. Expanding its mission from propagation of devotion to outreach projects for our needy brothers and sisters, the *congregacion* launched various apostolates such as a series of fashion shows for a cause, adopt a hospital program, medical missions, gift-giving for calamity victims and volunteer work in various charitable institutions.

In 1984, on its fifth anniversary, more members joined: Generoso Bayabo, Leopoldo Capistrano, Reynaldo T. Escolar-Chua, Antonio Galang-Vinjunco, Jose Marie Hilario, Chito Sayo, and Jose Vera. That year, Oscar and Olympia Violago, the fiesta's *hermanos mayores*, invited the congregation to administer the beautifully constructed chapel within the sprawling Violago Commercial Complex on E. Rodriguez Avenue in Quezon City. The chapel was venue for Holy Masses and the First Communion of poor children from depressed areas of the city.

The *congregacion* has been blessed with more energetic members such as Noel Hermogeno and Ferdie Esguerra in 1988, Filemon R. Regalado, Jr. and Real Mape in 1989, and Leopoldo dela Rosa in 1991.

In 1996, Rommel Elepaño and Ricardo Miranda were accepted and, in 1998, Rommel Ortin. Dr. Brian Brosas, Dennis Maturan, Jesse Nell and Venson Nobrera joined in 1999. In the Jubilee year 2000, Donnie Delima was accepted.

Other new members are Arthur Borja, Val de Mesa, John Erwin Enriquez, Joselito Pamilar and Steve de Leon.

Parish in need

Fr. Ramon Torres of Sto. Niño Parish in San Fernando, Pampanga said the *retablo* of the Sto. Niño de Praga was installed last Nov. 8 and blessed by Archbishop Panciano Aniceto. The day also marked the 36th anniversary of the parish. Fr. Torres, who has a deep devotion to the Holy Child, always wanted to build a fitting altar for the "True Vine who holds us together and sustains us in our journey."

The *retablo*, sculpted by Ardie de Dios of Betis, Pampanga, is not yet fully paid. Fr. Torres is asking for help. Call (045)9613434 or text Tita Sadsad, parish treasurer, at 0918-9203157.

Sto. Niño novena in QC

The Resurrection of the Lord Parish in Barangay Paltok, Quezon City is also holding a novena to the Sto. Niño, Jan. 7-15, after the 6 a.m. Mass and before the 6:30 p.m. Mass.

St. Josemaria Escriva

The Prelature of Opus Dei marks the birth anniversary of St. Josemaria Escriva today. Msgr. Josemaria Escriva was canonized in 2002. I ask him to guide me in having a more intense devotion to the Holy Mass, which he said was the highest honor we could give God.

Help needed

A small group of nuns from Burma (Myanmar) is now at Moonwalk, Las Piñas. Their motherhouse is in Italy. They come from the Italian Order of Reparation to the Sacred Heart and Immaculate Heart.

They have brought beauty herbs used by their princess. In paste form, a tiny amount is mixed with oil and applied as a mask.

One product comes from a Burmese flower, another from the bark of tree. There is a bleaching paste with lemon extract. You can help the nuns raise funds for their apostolate through donations in exchange for their beauty products (P250 for each plastic jar, the cost of the beauty paste in Myanmar). Orders will have to be picked up. Ask for Sister Regina La at 8032208 or 0917-3660761.

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2. Look for the promo sticker "BIG SAVINGS, BIG CRAVINGS" with Free (1) Biggies Burger from Canon and Wendy's on the Genuine Canon BJ Printer Ink box.
3. To claim the free Biggies Burger, present the whole Genuine Canon BJ Printer Ink box to any branch of Wendy's in Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Pampanga, Bulacan and Baguio City only.
4. The Manager or Supervisor of Wendy's will verify if the Canon BJ Printer Ink box presented is genuine or non-original.
5. To avail of additional (1) LARGE FRIES and (1) LARGE SOFTDRINK, just add P33.00 together with the Genuine Canon BJ Printer Ink box to the counter.
6. All claims will be valid for 60 days after the promo period.

Promo period is from December 1, 2004 to January 30, 2005.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5856, Series of 2004.
See posters and flyers for details.

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TOPPINGS ICE CREAM using G-CASH.
Now at all Mercury Drug Self-Serve stores!

Nestlé
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FREE

Start using G-Cash. FREE ang processing kapag nagpapalit ng pera to G-CASH sa Globe Business Centers, the Hub, at Globelines Payment centers!

1 To register, i-type ang: REG<space><4-digit M-PIN of your choice>/<Mother's Maiden Name>/<First Name> <Last Name> /<Address>/<Tel. No.> at i-send sa 2882

2 Pumunta sa Globe Business Center, at magpakita ng valid I.D. Ibigay sa sales representative para palitan ang iyong pera to G-Cash. Walang processing fee from Dec. 18, 2004 to Jan. 16, 2005.

Pwede na rin kayong magpapalit ng pera to G-Cash sa sumusunod na Mercury Drug Self-Serve stores, mula Dec. 18 - 23 at Dec. 26, 28 - 29, 2004 at Jan. 2 - 8, 2005 11am - 5pm.

Ali Mall • Glorietta • Shangri-La Mall • Robinson's Ermita • Parksquare 1 • Robinson's MetroEast • Robinson's Galleria Market Market • Shoppesville Greenhills • Festival Mall • Alabang Town Center Zapote Road 1

'tis the season to make great things possible **Globe** HANDYPHONE

Promo runs from Dec. 16, 2004 to Jan. 14, 2005. Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1489, Series of 2004.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

ır feedback:
y/message to
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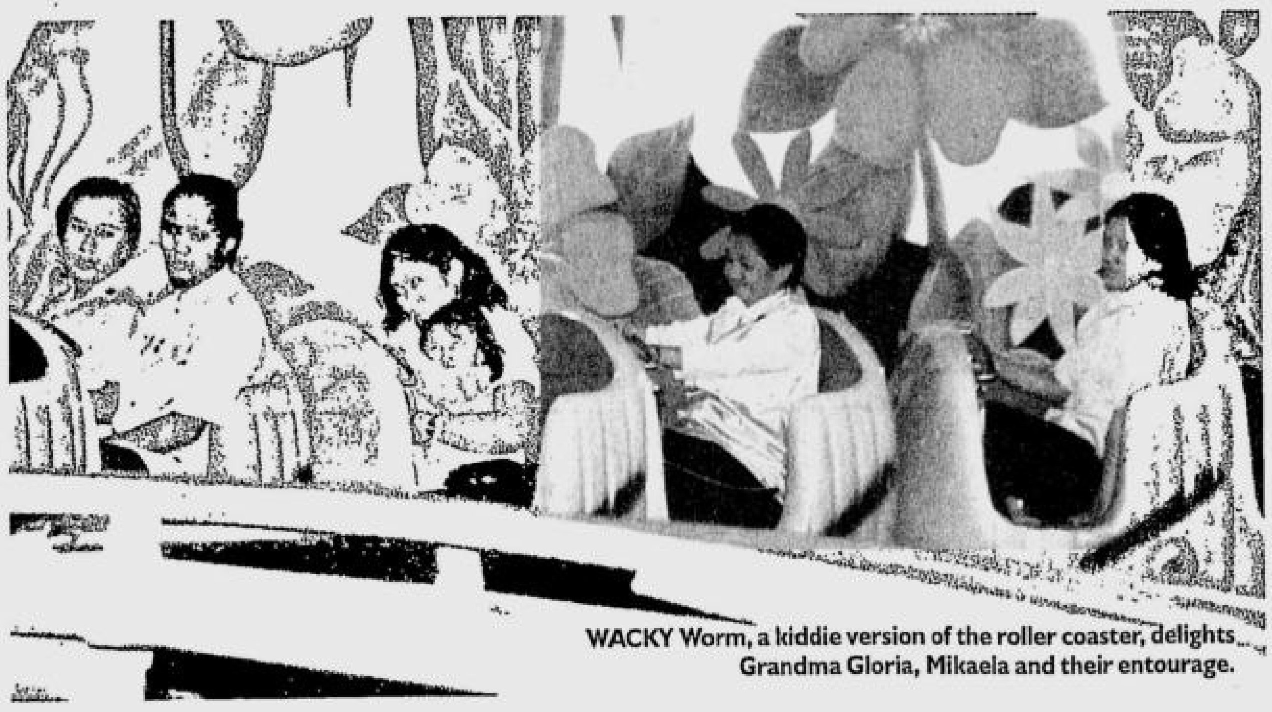
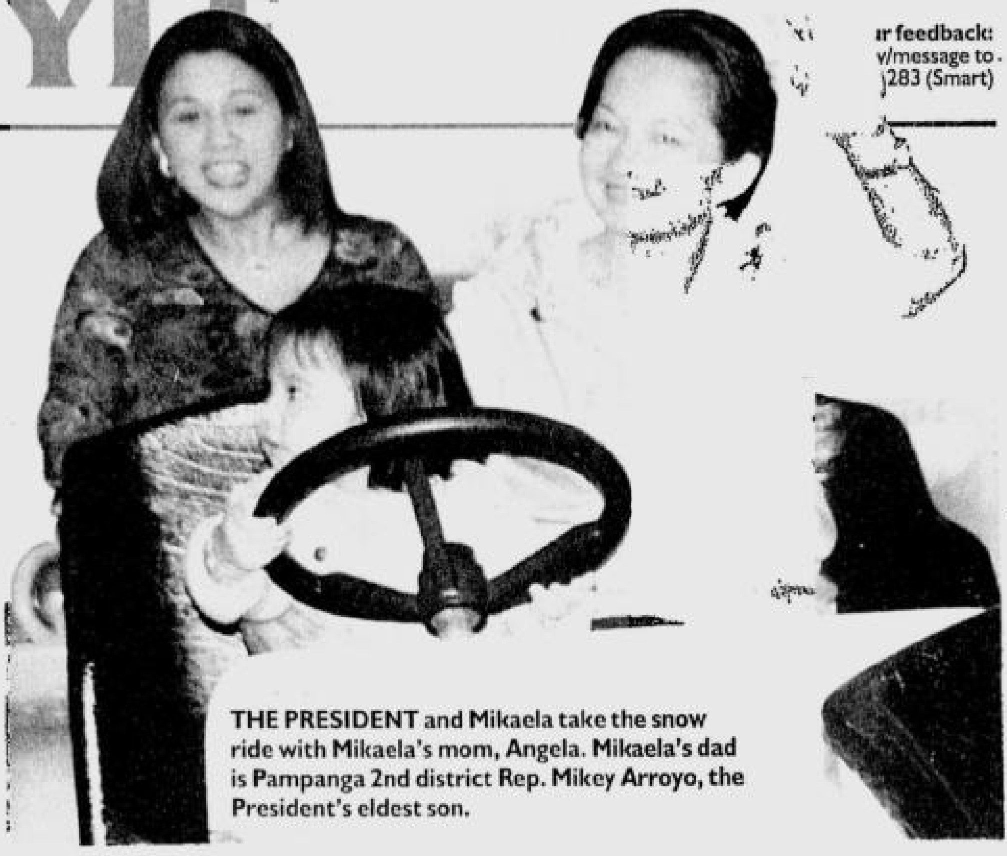


WACKY Worm, a kiddie version of the roller coaster, delights Grandma Gloria, Mikaela and their entourage.



THE PRESIDENT and Mikaela take the snow ride with Mikaela's mom, Angela. Mikaela's dad is Pampanga 2nd district Rep. Mikey Arroyo, the President's eldest son.

Walk in the park

LAGOON ride to see some animal attractions

ABOARD the Red Baron

LOOK who played doting grandma on a recent holiday night! President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo set aside some time to treat granddaughter Mikaela to the rides and wonders of Star City with First Gentleman Mike Arroyo. The busiest woman in the Philippines even joined her *apo* in enjoying some rides and walk-through attractions. Star City, air-conditioned and weatherproof, is open to park-goers all year round. Aside from rides and attractions, the park in the CCP complex by the bay has a shopping bazaar and a row of restaurants and food stalls. For the First Family, Star City is a place for much-needed bonding time.

THE PRESIDENT and Mikaela ride the Quack-Quack, a popular kiddie ride.

STAR Parks Corporation and Manila Broadcasting Company vice-chairman Hadrian Arroyo gives the First Family a tour of Star City.

Makati hotel GM wins Asia Pacific award

OAKWOOD Asia Pacific, a global luxury serviced residence leader, has named Robert Rosetti its General Manager of the Year. Mr. Rosetti is general manager of the Oakwood Premier Ayala Center.

"Robert Rosetti has demonstrated outstanding leadership, both in terms of caring for his guests and leading the Manila market in performance," said PG Mathew, managing director of Oakwood Asia Pacific. The award was presented in Bali at Oakwood Asia Pacific's annual meeting.

ROBERT Rosetti, general manager of the Oakwood Premier Ayala Center

Rosetti was recognized for the exceptional results achieved by Oakwood Premier Ayala Center, including:

* 2004's highest occupancy and REVPAR (revenue per average room) in the Manila market among both five-star hotels and serviced apartments categories

* Excellent customer service ratings, derived from guest interviews done by Oakwood's Guest Feedback Center in the U.S.

* Exceeding budgets set by owning companies Ayala Land and ING Rodamco, and management company Oakwood Asia Pacific

* Superior performance of the Oakroom Restaurant, in food quality and revenue

A thirty-year veteran of the hospitality industry, Rosetti has managed international hotels in the U.S., Asia and the Middle East. He is a graduate of the Lausanne Hotel School in Lausanne, Switzerland.

"I am deeply honored by this award," says Rosetti. "Nevertheless, it is really a tribute to our entire staff. They have created such a welcoming environment for all of our guests and are constantly attuned to evolving market needs."

Oakwood Premier Ayala Center offers luxury serviced accommodations for both daily and extended stays, with amenities such as Club One health club and gym, swimming pool, tennis, meeting space, serviced offices, and the Oakroom Restaurant. Oakwood Premier Ayala Center was the winner of the 2003 Kalakbay Award presented by the Philippines Department of Tourism.

Oakwood Asia Pacific manages upscale serviced apartments in Manila, Tokyo, Seoul, Guangzhou and Bangkok; has future sites under development in India, Indonesia, Thailand and Japan.

Oakwood Asia Pacific is a joint venture between Oakwood Worldwide and Colony Capital, an international investment fund.

Founded in 1960, Oakwood Worldwide (www.oakwood.com) is the largest global provider of serviced apartments, with locations throughout the U.S., the U.K. and Asia, encompassing more than 30,000 serviced and unfurnished apartments. Oakwood's award-winning properties are managed with a rich standard of quality, reliability and personal service.

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OAKWOOD Premier Ayala Center

60
5
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55

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The Tiffany Mark™ T-57

Swiss Pedigree automatic movement
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Calibrated bezel rotator driver
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sms feedback: inquirer life name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)

INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

JANUARY 2005

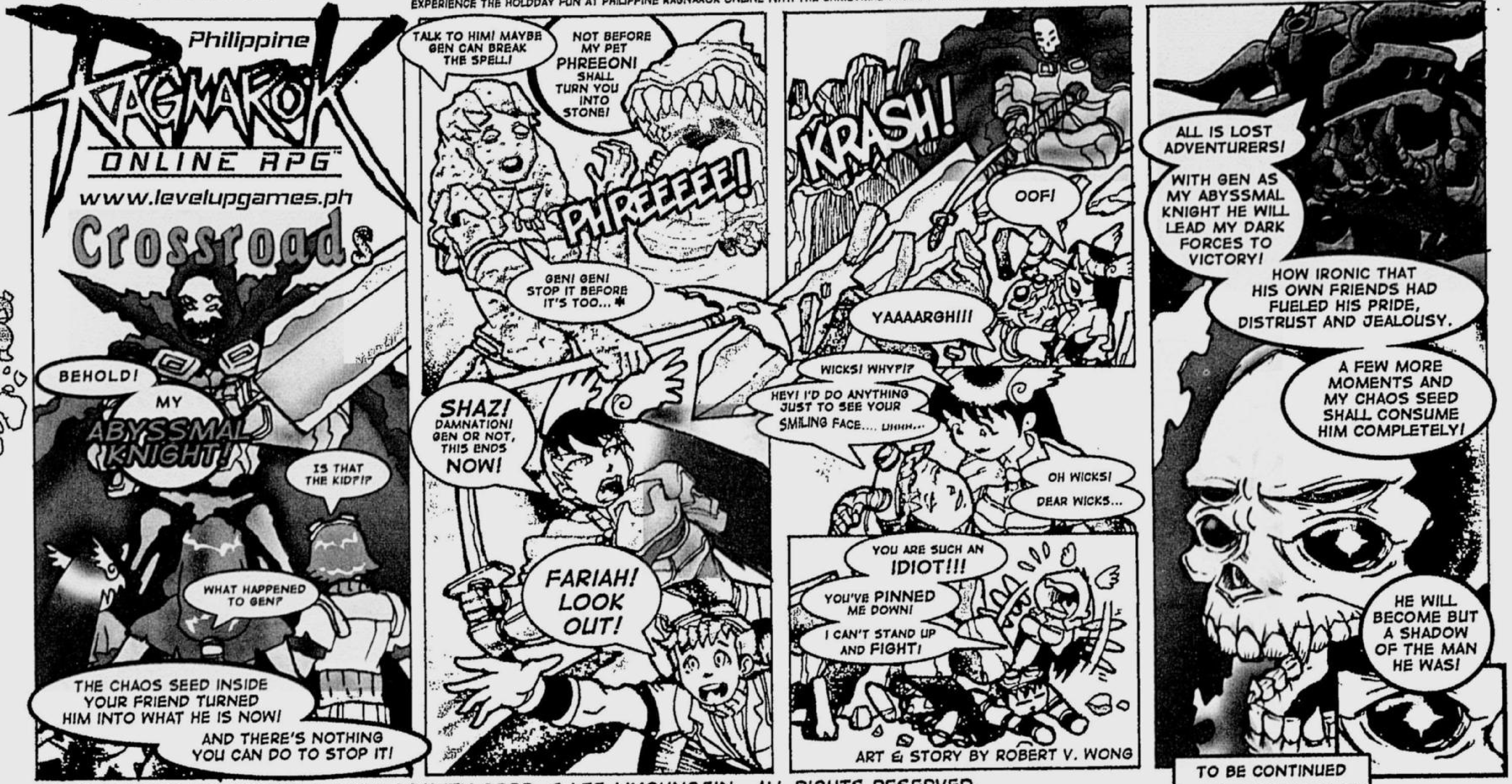
1

e-mail feedback: arts@inquirer.com.ph

RAGNAROK

BY ROBERT WONG

EXPERIENCE THE HOLDDAY FUN AT PHILIPPINE RAGNAROK ONLINE WITH THE CHRISTMAS PATCH COMING THIS DECEMBER 15-JAN 11! REGISTER NOW FOR A FREE 3 DAY TRIAL AT WWW.LEVELUPGAMES.PH


Philippine RAGNAROK ONLINE RPG
www.levelupgames.ph
Crossroads
BEHOLD!
MY ABYSSMAL KNIGHT!
IS THAT THE KID?!?
WHAT HAPPENED TO GEN?
THE CHAOS SEED INSIDE YOUR FRIEND TURNED HIM INTO WHAT HE IS NOW!
AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP IT!
TALK TO HIM! MAYBE GEN CAN BREAK THE SPELL!
NOT BEFORE MY PET PHREEON! SHALL TURN YOU INTO STONE!
PHREEEEE!
GEN! GEN! STOP IT BEFORE IT'S TOO... *
SHAZ! DAMNATION! GEN OR NOT, THIS ENDS NOW!
FARIAH! LOOK OUT!
KRASH!
OOF!
YAAAARGH!!!
WICKS! WHY?!?
HEY! I'D DO ANYTHING JUST TO SEE YOUR SMILING FACE.... UHHH...
OH WICKS!
DEAR WICKS...
YOU ARE SUCH AN IDIOT!!!
YOU'VE PINNED ME DOWN!
I CAN'T STAND UP AND FIGHT!
ART & STORY BY ROBERT V. WONG
ALL IS LOST ADVENTURERS!
WITH GEN AS MY ABYSSMAL KNIGHT HE WILL LEAD MY DARK FORCES TO VICTORY!
HOW IRONIC THAT HIS OWN FRIENDS HAD FUELED HIS PRIDE, DISTRUST AND JEALOUSY.
A FEW MORE MOMENTS AND MY CHAOS SEED SHALL CONSUME HIM COMPLETELY!
HE WILL BECOME BUT A SHADOW OF THE MAN HE WAS!
TO BE CONTINUED

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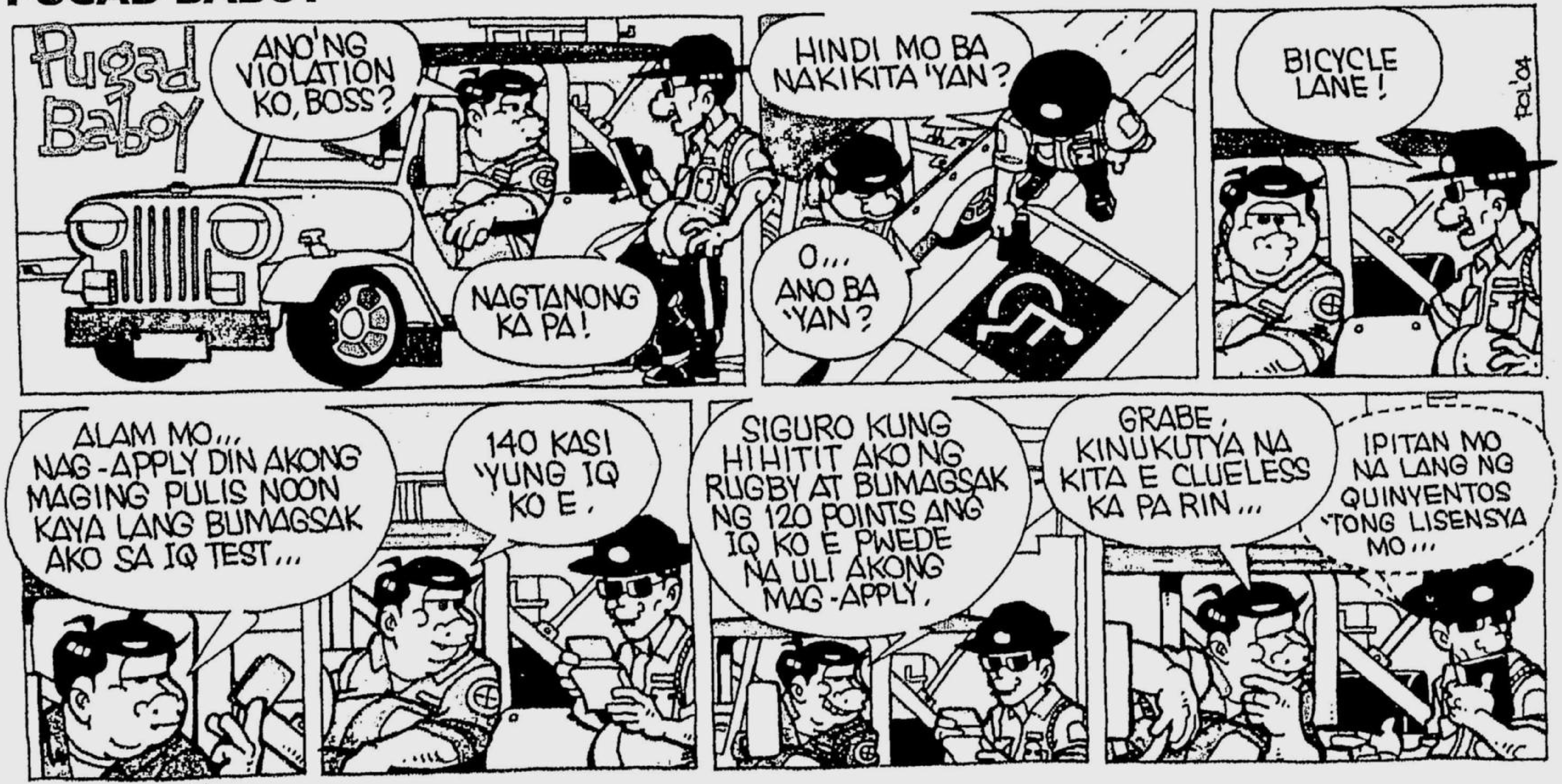
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


Pugad Baboy
ANO'NG VIOLATION KO, BOSS?
NAGTANONG KA PA!
HINDI MO BA NAKIKITA 'YAN?
O... ANO BA 'YAN?
BICYCLE LANE!
POL'04
ALAM MO... NAG-APPLY DIN AKONG MAGING PULIS NOON KAYA LANG BUMAGSAK AKO SA IQ TEST...
140 KASI 'YUNG IQ KO E.
SIGURO KUNG HIHITIT AKO NG RUGBY AT BUMAGSAK NG 120 POINTS ANG IQ KO E PWEDE NA ULI AKONG MAG-APPLY.
GRABE, KINUKUTYA NA KITA E CLUELESS KA PA RIN...
IPITAN MO NA LANG NG QUINYENTOS 'TONG LISENSYA MO...

Read the Inquirer Comics Sunday and get a chance to win weekly prizes from Ragnarok, Filbars and Fully Booked or a PC in the Grand Draw! Text INQVOTE to 291 (SMART) and 2949 (Globe) now!*

Congratulations to last week's(Dec. 26 to 31) winners: 1) Nancy Tugnao Paco, Manila 2) Michelle Arines Hernandez Los Banos, Laguna 3) Rodrigo Ardaban Jr., Bulacan

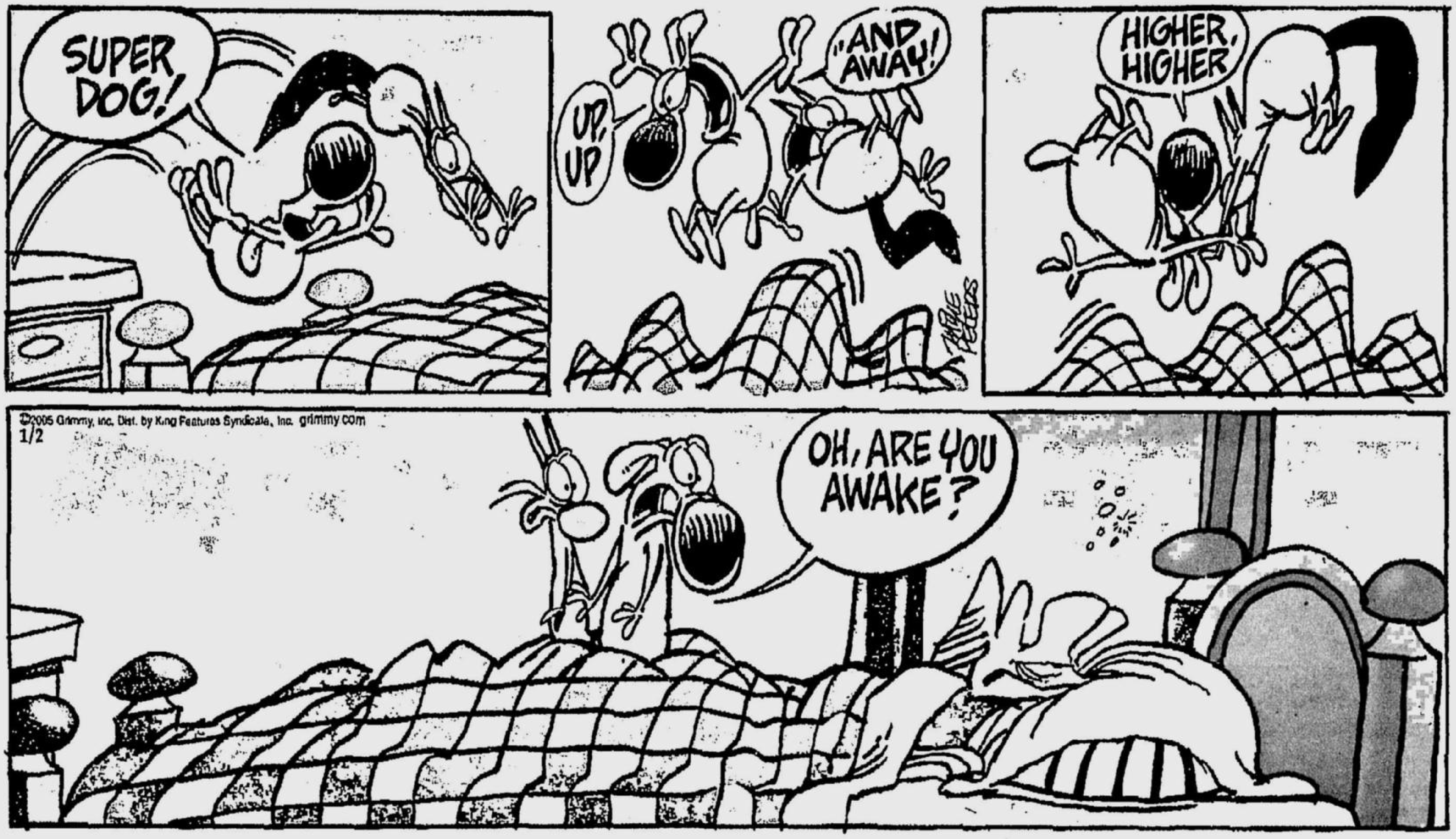
Congratulations to this week's winners: 1) Aissa Padilla, QC 2) Mary Leen Jarilla, Laguna , 3) Armi Omeping, Manila

To claim your prizes, please call (02)897-8808 loc. 352. Look for Mr. Dennis Leung

*SEE PROMO PRINT ADS FOR DETAILS

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


SUPER DOG!
UP, UP
"AND AWAY!
MIKE PETERS
HIGHER, HIGHER
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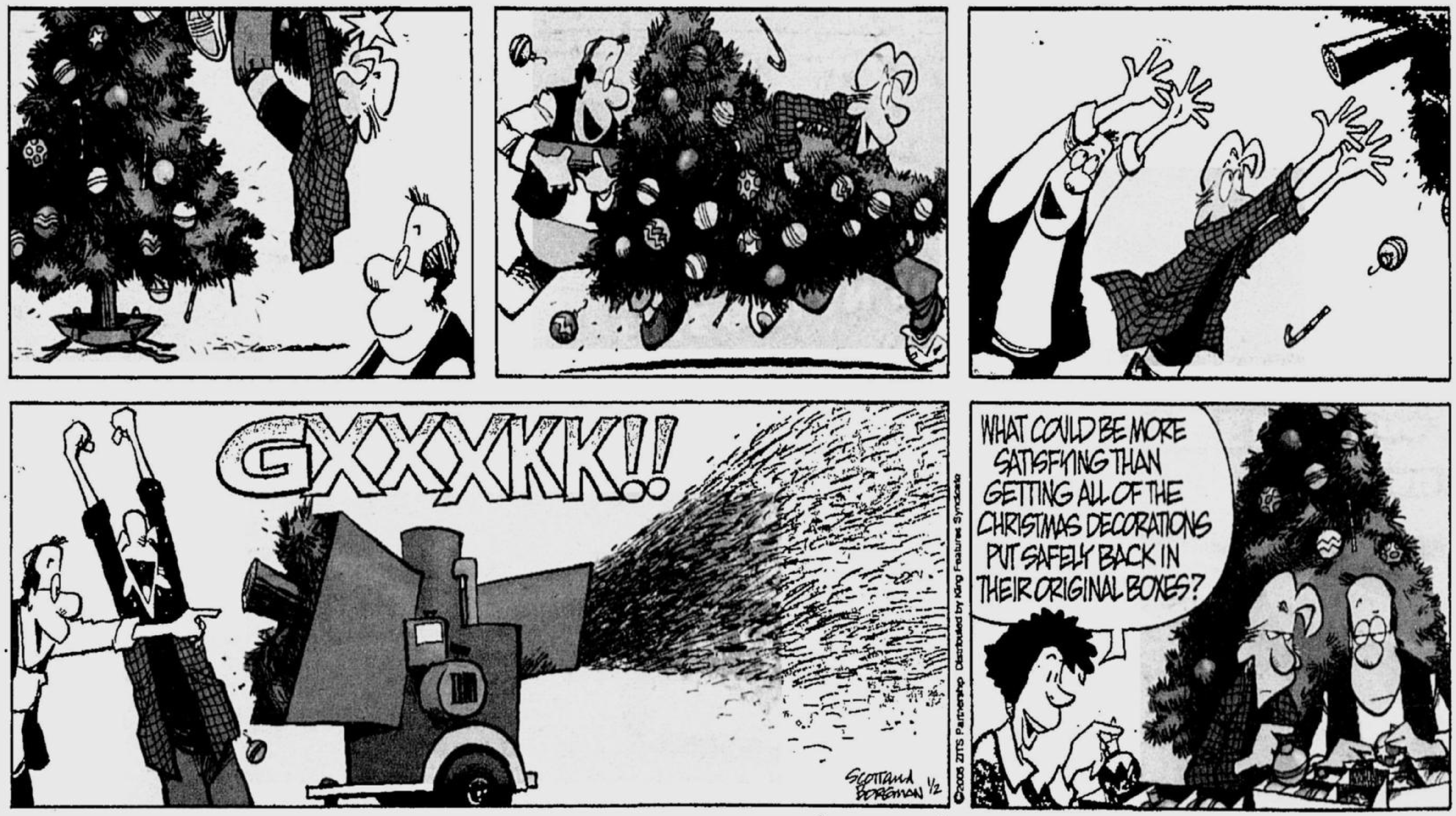
1/2
OH, ARE YOU AWAKE?

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


GXXXKK!!
SCOTT and BORGMAN 1/2
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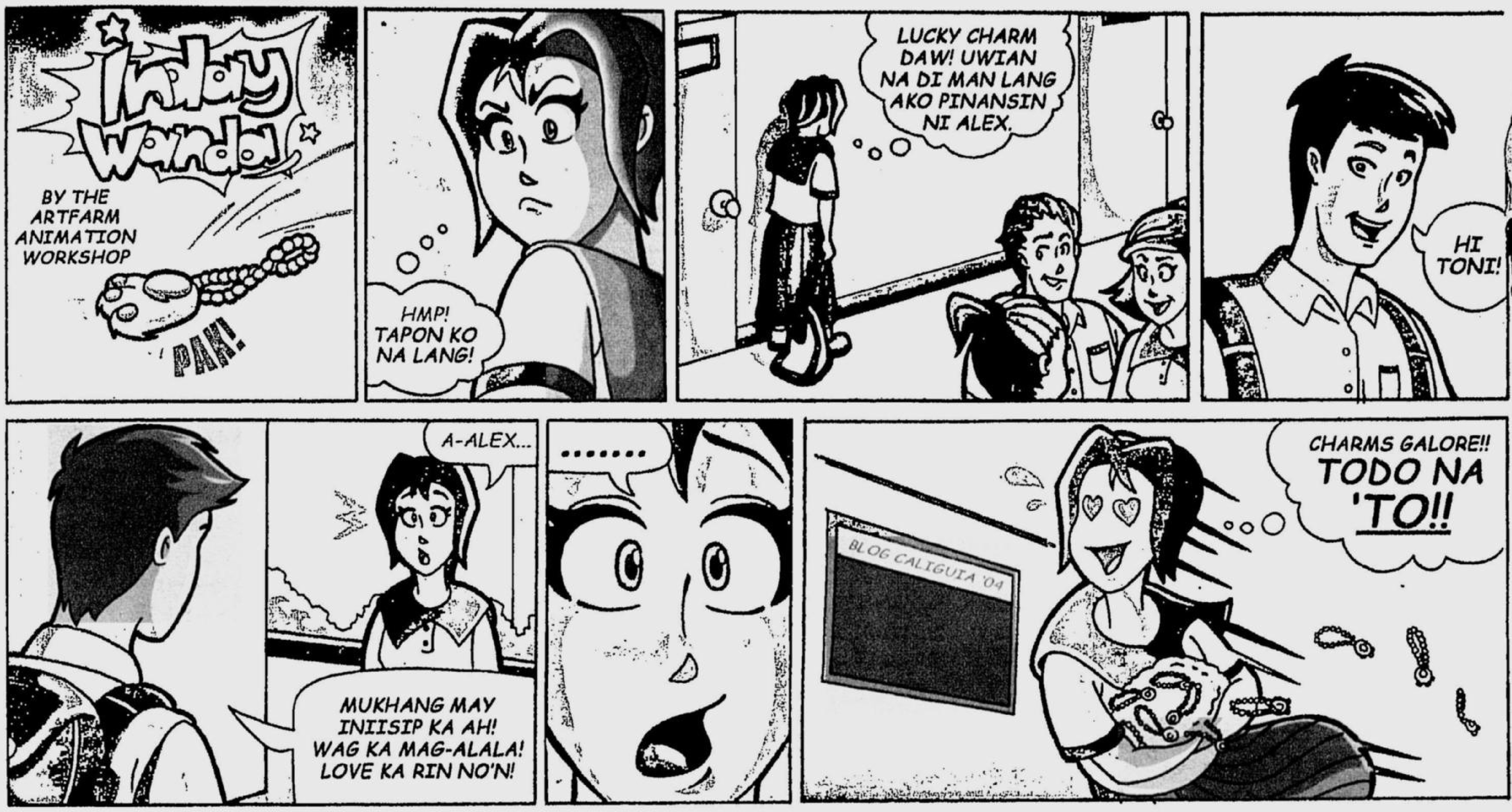
WHAT COULD BE MORE SATISFYING THAN GETTING ALL OF THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS PUT SAFELY BACK IN THEIR ORIGINAL BOXES?

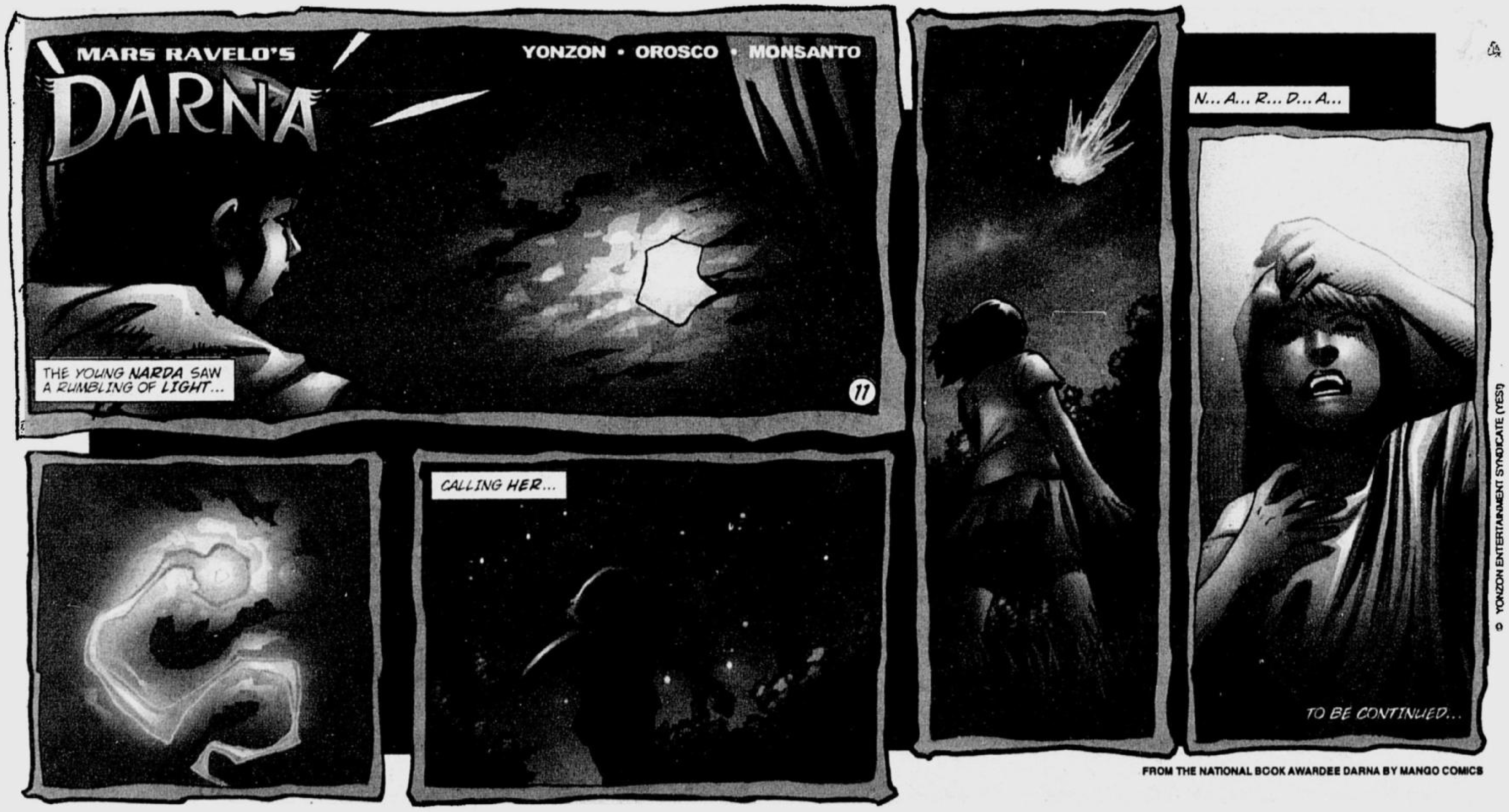
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


Inday Wanda
BY THE ARTFARM ANIMATION WORKSHOP
PAK!
HMP! TAPON KO NA LANG!
LUCKY CHARM DAW! UWIAN NA DI MAN LANG AKO PINANSIN NI ALEX.
HI TONI!
A-ALEX...
MUKHANG MAY INIISIP KA AH! WAG KA MAG-ALALA! LOVE KA RIN NO'N!
....
BLOG CALIGUIA '04
CHARMS GALORE!! TODO NA 'TO!!

DARNA

BY MANGO COMICS


MARS RAVELO'S
DARNA
YONZON • OROSCO • MONSANTO
THE YOUNG NARDA SAW A RUMBLING OF LIGHT...
11
CALLING HER...
N... A... R... D... A...
TO BE CONTINUED...

© YONZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE (YES!)

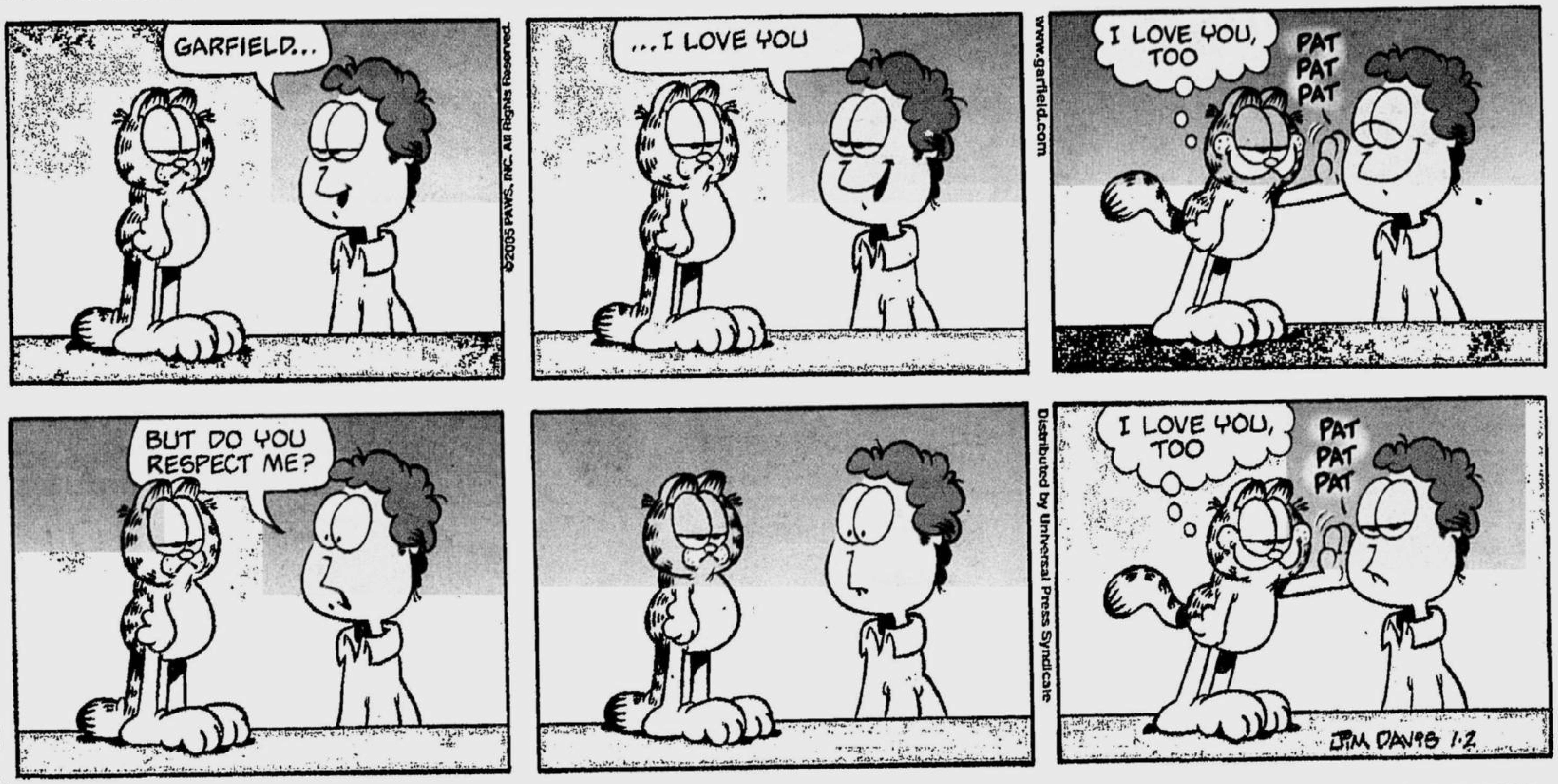
FROM THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARDEE DARNA BY MANGO COMICS

A. FOLD OUT AT CENTER TO GET THE BIG PICTURE

4 JANUARY 2005 INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


GARFIELD...
...I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU, TOO
PAT PAT PAT
BUT DO YOU RESPECT ME?
I LOVE YOU, TOO
PAT PAT PAT
JIM DAVIS 1-2

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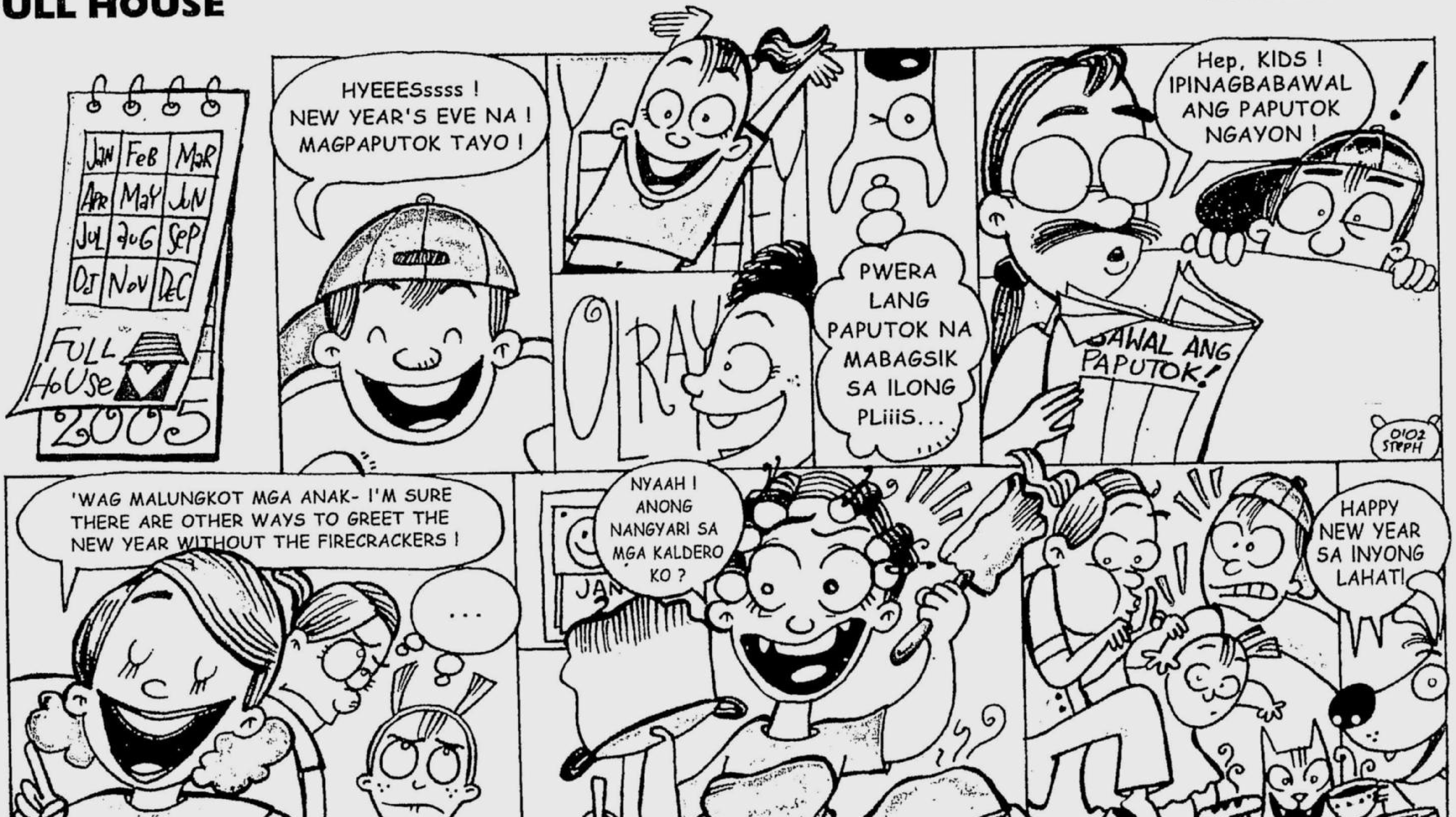
FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


JAN Feb MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC
FULL HOUSE 2005
HYEEESssss ! NEW YEAR'S EVE NA ! MAGPAPUTOK TAYO !
OLRAY
PWERA LANG PAPUTOK NA MABAGSIK SA ILONG PLiiiS...
Hep, KIDS ! IPINAGBABAWAL ANG PAPUTOK NGAYON !
BAWAL ANG PAPUTOK!
0102 STEPH
'WAG MALUNGKOT MGA ANAK- I'M SURE THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO GREET THE NEW YEAR WITHOUT THE FIRECRACKERS !
...
JAN
NYAAH ! ANONG NANGYARI SA MGA KALDERO KO ?
HAPPY NEW YEAR SA INYONG LAHAT!

B. TURN THE PAGE TO GET IT RIGHT

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Colored Printer / DVD [illegible] / Digicam

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NOKIA 3220
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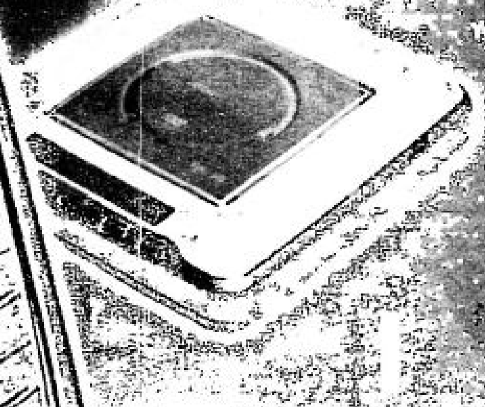
Sony Ericsson K700i
CD Casette Player / Colored Printer

[illegible] Phone 2 • Sony Ericsson K500i
[illegible] 6230 / 6260 / 6600
[illegible] Player / Colored Printer / DVD Player

Nokia 3220
Your choice of CD Casette Player / Colored Printer /
DVD Player / Digicam

Nokia 2650 / 3100 / 3120 • Motorola C375 / C650
Your choice of CD Casette Player / Colored Printer /
DVD Player / Digicam / PS2 / IPOD Mini

NOKIA
FREE
NOKIA 3120
@PLAN
1800



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Your choice of CD Casette Player/ Colored [illegible]

Nokia 2650 / 3100 / 3120 • Motorola [illegible]
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Colored Printer / DVD Player

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SMART Amazing Phone 2
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Nokia 3220 • Motorola C650 • Sony Ericsson K500i
CD Casette Player / Colored Printer
DVD Player

Nokia 2650 / 3100 / 3120
CD Casette Player / Colored Printer /
DVD Player / Digicam

Motorola C375
[illegible] CD Casette Player / Colored Printer /
DVD Player / Digicam / PS2 / IPOD Mini

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SONY PLAYSTATION 2

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MOTOROLA C375
@PLAN
2500

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Nokia 3100	FREE	FREE	60% OFF	30% OFF	20% OFF	25% OFF
Nokia 3120*	FREE	FREE	60% OFF	30% OFF	20% OFF	25% OFF
Nokia 3220*	FREE	FREE	60% OFF	30% OFF	20% OFF	25% OFF
Nokia 6230*	FREE	FREE	60% OFF	30% OFF	20% OFF	25% OFF
Nokia 6260*	FREE	FREE	60% OFF	30% OFF	20% OFF	25% OFF
Nokia 6600*	FREE	FREE	60% OFF	30% OFF	20% OFF	25% OFF
Nokia 7610*	FREE	FREE	60% OFF	30% OFF	20% OFF	25% OFF
Motorola C375	FREE	FREE	80% OFF	40% OFF	30% OFF	30% OFF
Motorola C650*	FREE	FREE	60% OFF	30% OFF	20% OFF	25% OFF
SMART Amazing Phone 2*	FREE	FREE	60% OFF	30% OFF	20% OFF	25% OFF
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SUNDAY,
JANUARY 9, 2005
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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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THE LIMS. Donald and Kimberly, after exchanging wedding vows

LIM-CHU NUPTIALS

Romance and geomancy

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

ALTHOUGH they had known each other because their parents were good friends, Donald Patrick Lim and Kimberly Ann Chu only met two years ago—and in a wake at that! Eventually, their friendship ended in marriage: Lim, the INQUIRER's VP for marketing, and Chu, a teller at China Bank, exchanged "I dos" six days before Christmas last month at the San Sebastian Church in Manila.

"To tell you the truth," says Donald, a few days after the wedding, "I was overwhelmed by the turnout of guests. I didn't expect that many people to attend."

If anything, such a rousing attendance only proved how well loved they are. Not only was their altar date an early-morning affair, it also coincided with the wedding of another prominent pair in the Chinese-Filipino community. In short, not a few of their distinguished guests had to choose between the two affairs.

The couple's parents picked the wedding's time and date as early as a year ago, but not before consulting a prominent feng-shui master. Everything was factored in according to Chinese tradition, including Donald's and Kimberly's birthdays. Not a few pairs also found the date auspicious.

The couple, who were both wearing Western-inspired creations by fashion designer Val

ROMANCE/ F2

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Year of the ROOSTER
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WITH THE WINNING COMBINATION OF:

week 8
JAN 1, 05 - 17 25 14 09 15 08 03
JAN 3, 05 - 27 21 19 17 13 30 24
JAN 4, 05 - 10 20 18 29 12 08 30
JAN 5, 05 - 20 08 09 23 26 27 18
JAN 6, 05 - 21 02 14 11 01 06 18
JAN 7, 05 - 26 10 23 09 17 15 07

PREVIOUS WINNING COMBINATIONS:

week 1
NOV 15, 04 - 05 23 08 16 15 07 30
NOV 16, 04 - 19 22 03 28 12 13 27
NOV 17, 04 - 01 28 27 24 09 30 04
NOV 18, 04 - 21 09 08 14 27 23 24
NOV 19, 04 - 05 25 23 12 18 06 14
NOV 20, 04 - 29 23 05 22 02 06 20

week 2
NOV 22, 04 - 15 05 17 10 26 04 24
NOV 23, 04 - 06 30 25 10 26 04 01
NOV 24, 04 - 19 23 04 15 28 29 25
NOV 25, 04 - 20 10 03 15 14 23 01
NOV 26, 04 - 10 09 17 01 30 04 28
NOV 27, 04 - 11 10 15 18 25 17 29

week 3
NOV 29, 04 - 12 16 30 09 19 01 20
NOV 30, 04 - 12 28 26 19 17 01 06
DEC 1, 04 - 19 22 27 28 06 30 09
DEC 2, 04 - 16 11 07 03 10 21 02
DEC 3, 04 - 26 18 24 29 30 07 11
DEC 4, 04 - 15 02 19 11 16 06 20

week 4
DEC 6, 04 - 23 03 25 02 12 27 17
DEC 7, 04 - 18 14 03 16 13 05 06
DEC 8, 04 - 09 05 23 12 28 17 13
DEC 9, 04 - 29 26 02 07 03 15 08
DEC 10, 04 - 24 04 14 26 10 19 29
DEC 11, 04 - 30 14 28 24 11 03 13

week 5
DEC 13, 04 - 08 23 16 03 26 02 17
DEC 14, 04 - 12 16 21 26 17 23 28
DEC 15, 04 - 13 14 01 16 21 17 07
DEC 16, 04 - 22 29 04 20 03 28 24
DEC 17, 04 - 07 13 02 28 17 23 06
DEC 18, 04 - 15 11 08 10 24 20 26

week 6
DEC 20, 04 - 21 28 04 25 09 11 19
DEC 21, 04 - 20 13 26 07 14 02 18
DEC 22, 04 - 16 18 28 02 21 01 27
DEC 23, 04 - 06 30 24 02 28 05 01
DEC 24, 04 - 07 18 22 09 13 15 29
DEC 25, 04 - 22 09 23 27 30 13 04

week 7
DEC 27, 04 - 05 26 09 17 06 12 25
DEC 28, 04 - 11 27 21 30 07 08 05
DEC 29, 04 - 25 12 22 01 18 28 21
DEC 30, 04 - 01 15 23 18 04 24 08
DEC 31, 04 - 17 28 24 26 19 08 05

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THE COUPLE with their principal sponsors: (from left, second row) Ernesto Co, Jeffrey Ong, Agaton Tiu, Jack Ong, Alex Prieto, Benito Sy, Joselito Ortega and Ernesto Chua Co Kiong, (from left, first row) Olivia Co, Josephine Ong, Rosa Tiu, Maria Ong, Marixi Prieto, Dalisay Sy, Marivic Añonuevo and Chang Kang Leong

THREE-LAYERED cake with several satellite cakes by Cake Studio

Romance and geomancy

Leano, later broke bread with friends and loved ones at a sit-down lunch at the Century Park Sheraton's grand ballroom. Most women chose to wear either pink or fuchsia in keeping with the wedding's motif.

Their principal sponsors included INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto, husband Alex Prieto and several prominent members of the Chinese-Filipino community. They had the chance to get acquainted with each other during one of the pre-wedding parties the couple hosted.

Memorable

The pre-Christmas wedding had its share of memorable moments, including a novel way of choosing the featured bachelor and bachelorette for the requisite placing of the garter. If you ask the couple, though, the affair's highlight happened moments before the traditional toast.

Donald choked as he held back tears while thanking family and friends, especially their beloved parents. Kimberly sat quietly through it all as tears flowed down her cheeks.

"I don't usually get emotional," says Donald. "I must have kept all my feelings bottled up inside me until the time came for me to speak. I was touched by the support Kimberly and I got from family and friends. They volunteered to do almost everything because they know I'm very busy."

On top of his corporate responsibilities at the INQUIRER, Donald has very little time left to spare, as he manages several other businesses. It's simply a matter of discipline and time management, says Donald, who still gets to sleep at least six to seven hours a day.

Theirs wasn't an arranged marriage, although their parents had been good friends. They were also virtually related to each other, as Kimberly's parents stood as Donald's godparents in baptism.

"I've heard of his achievements through other people," says Kimberly. "When I finally got the chance to meet him, I found out for myself how nice he is. I felt immediately comfortable talking to him."

Wake helps

A wake wasn't exactly a conducive place to start a romance, but it helped that the two were among the few who belonged to the same age group in a room full of married people and old timers.

Aside from Kimberly's looks, Donald found her mentally stimulating. In fact, one of the first attributes that drew him to her was the fact that she was a BS Math graduate with honors from La Salle. It didn't hurt that he graduated with a marketing degree from the rival camp, Ateneo.

Theirs wasn't a classic case of love at first sight either. Before the night was over, however, they found themselves exchanging cell phone numbers. After nearly a month of keeping in touch through text messages, Donald and Kimberly finally went out on a date.

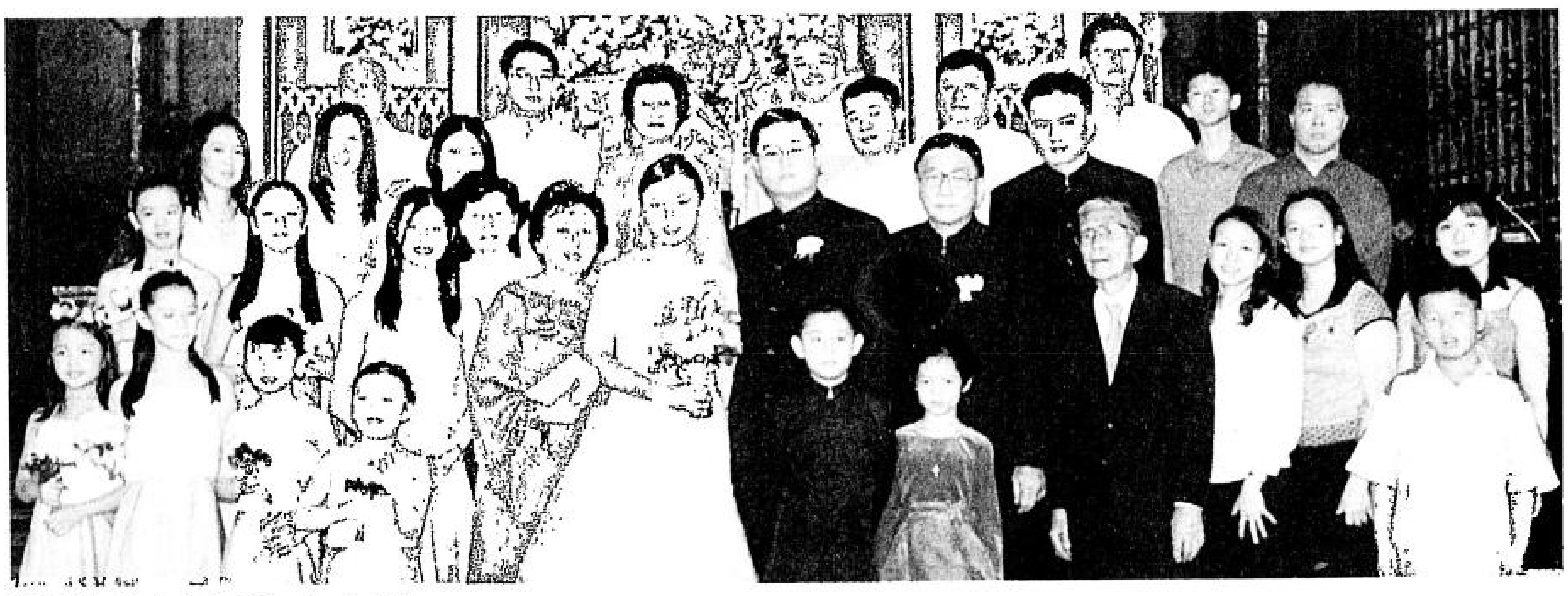
"We weren't exactly alone since my dad joined us," says Kimberly. "Even during the time when we were already sweethearts, we often went out on dates as a group. We preferred it that way because both of us are quite close to our respective families."

In fact, Donald's parents even joined them during their recent honeymoon in Shanghai. When the New Year rolled in, the two made it a point to spend it with Kimberly's parents in their Pasay home.

This year is bound to be a more hectic one for Donald as he assumes the presidency of the Philippine Marketing Association. But with Kimberly on his side to provide much-needed support and inspiration, he's confident that everything will fall in its proper place and on schedule.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

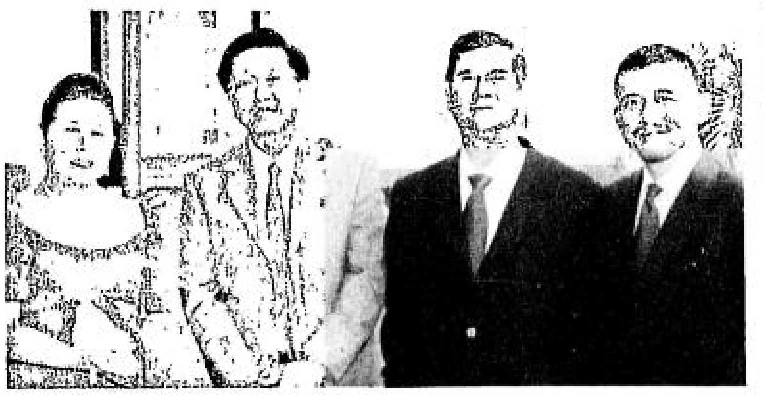
DONALD and Kimberly with parents Jaime Chu and Mary Chu, and Angel Lim and Margaret Lim



COUPLE with the bride's friends and relatives

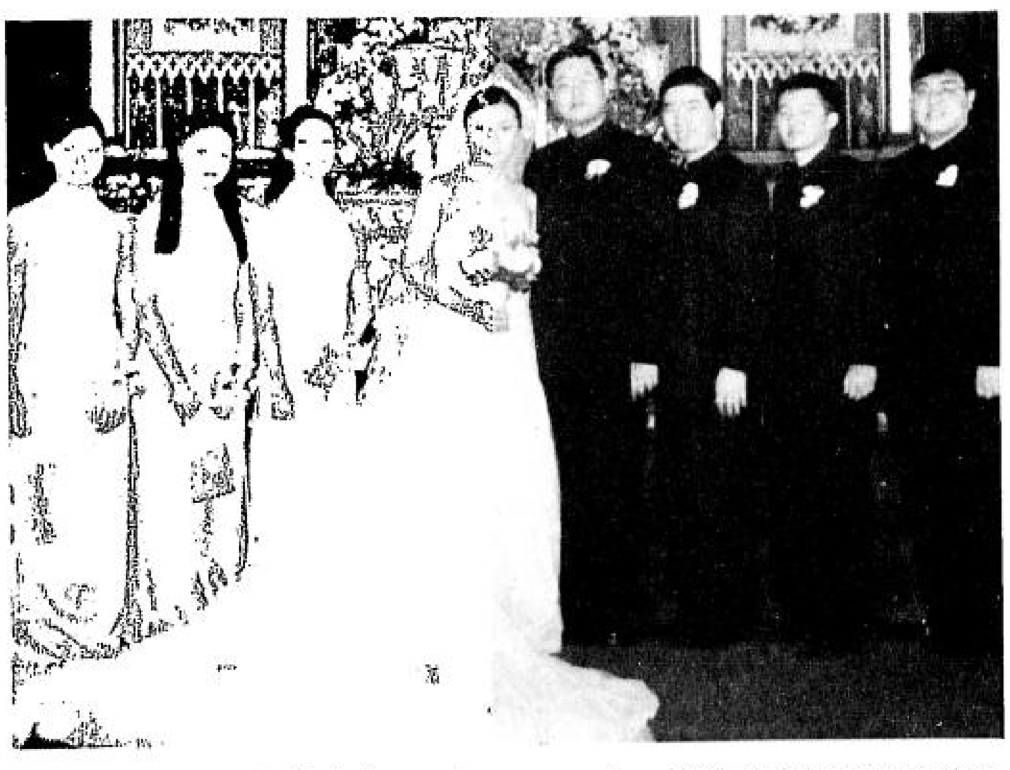
WITH THE groom's friends and relatives

INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez and husband Philip Romualdez



INQUIRER chair Marixi Rufino-Prieto, Ford president Henry Co, Alex Prieto and FEP Printing president Dennis Valdes

PHILLIP Rico, president and COO of Prudential Guarantee, and wife



DONALD and Kimberly with their secondary sponsors: (from left) Jaclyn Yap, Tiffany Cotioco, Mary Ann Sy, Robert Pangilinan, Arnold Lim and Ivan Lim

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Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER *office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*

TAN-HANG

Erika Hang, daughter of **Renato** and **Evelyn Hang** of Marikina, will exchange vows with **Edbert Tan**, son of **Joaquin** and **Yolanda Tan**, today at the San Agustin Church. Reception will follow at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. The bride will wear a gown by **Paul Cabral**.

JAHRLING-VALBUENA

Giuseppe P. Jahrling, son of Mr. and Ms **Luis N. Jahrling**, will marry **Abigail T. Valbuena**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Virgilio Valbuena**, on Jan. 15 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine. Reception will follow at Richmonde Hotel.

The bride will wear a fully beaded tube gown by **Edward Teng**.

SALIBA-AMADOR

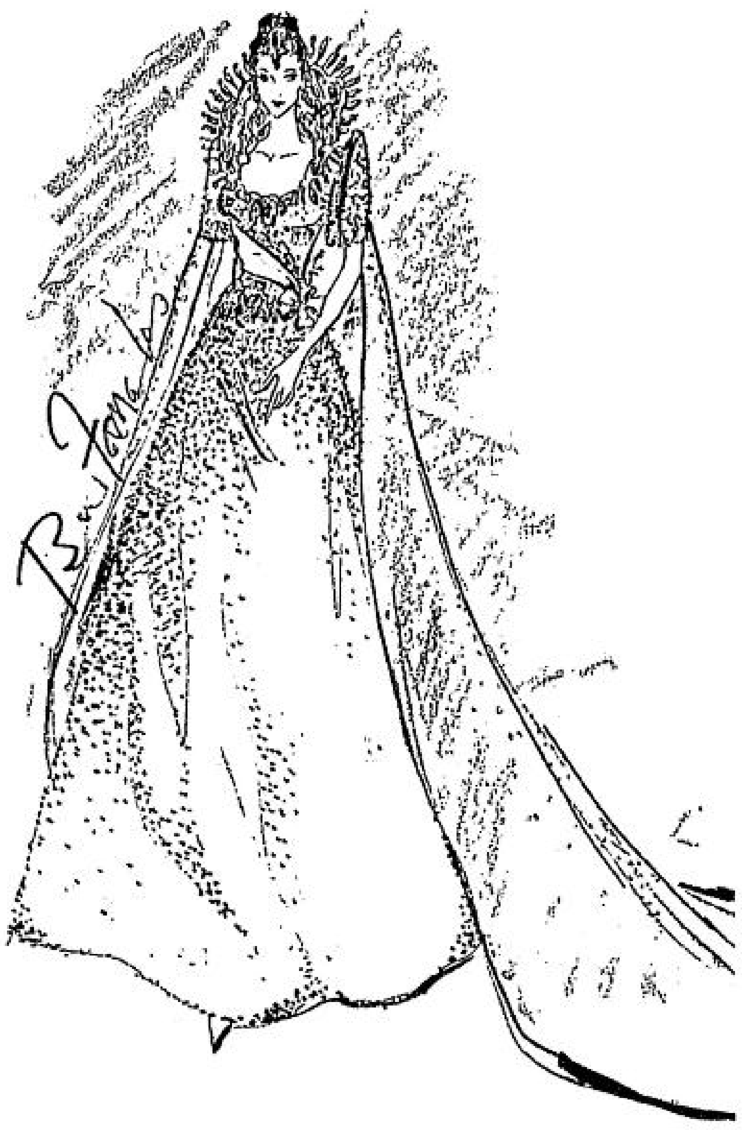
April Villanueva Saliba, son of **Bernardo** and **Loida Saliba**, will marry **Karen Joyce Mandid Amador**, daughter of **Regidor** and **Ma. Grizelda Amador**, on Jan. 15 at the Mary Immaculate Parish-Nature's Church, Moonwalk Village, Las Piñas City. Reception will follow at Nature's Café Banquet Garden and Hall.

DE LA CRUZ-CARAS

Dennis de la Cruz and **Milany Caras** will exchange vows at Paco Church, Manila. Reception will follow at Patio Victoria, Intramuros, Manila.

MARIANO-FAUSTO

Dr. **Maria Pila Fausto**, daughter of Col. **Pagasa E. Fausto** and Dr. **Alma R. Fausto**, married **Ricky Mariano**, son of **Alberto** and **Rosalinda Mariano**, on Dec. 20 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine, New Manila, QC. Reception followed at the Garden Ballroom, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

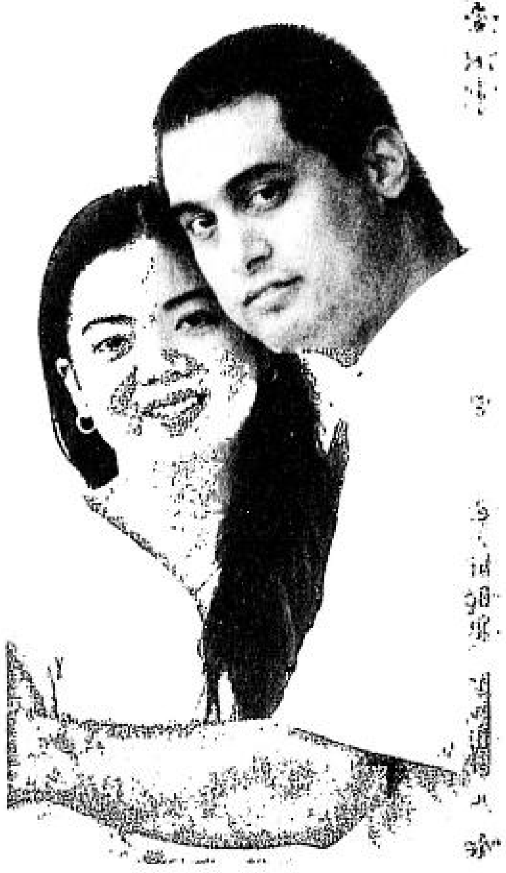


MISS LIPA CITY

Marren Dimaculangan will wear a **Ben Farrales** gown when she is crowned Miss Lipa City 40th Silver Celebration on Jan. 15. Swarovski stones are embellished all over her terno, which has a matching jeweled train in silver and gold.

SANTOS-CABERO

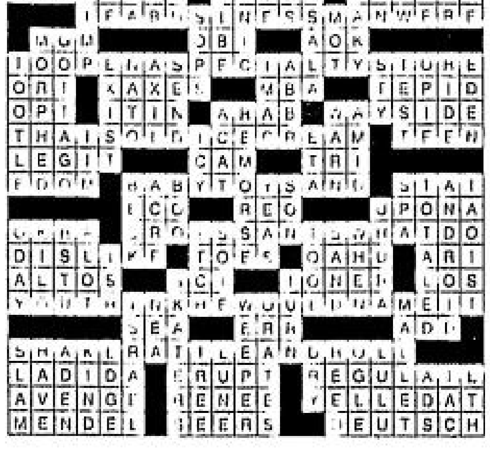
Dr. **Misael Santos** and Dr. **Angelica B. Cabero** exchanged vows recently at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. Reception followed at the Sunset Pavilion of the Westin Philippine Plaza. Paris-based Filipino designer **Roy Gonzales** of the House of R.T. Paras designed the gown.

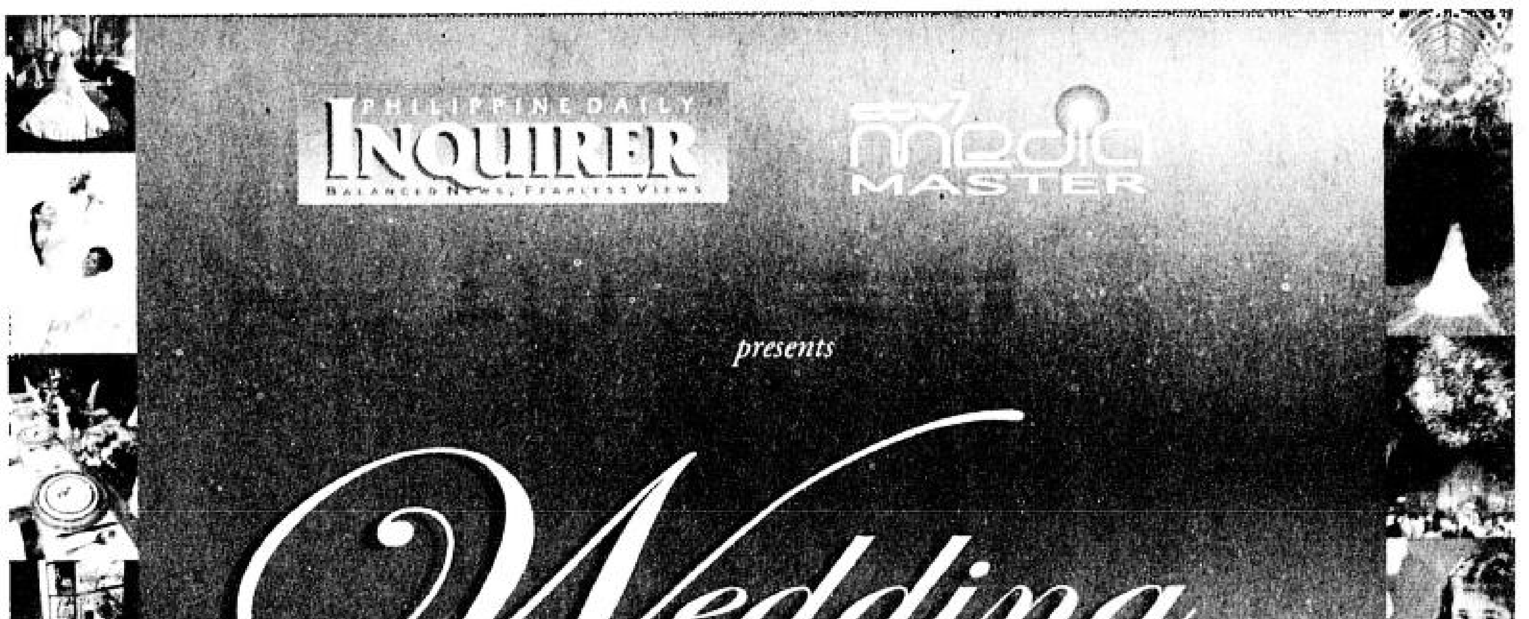


CULLARI-FRANCO

Lilian Franco and **Christopher Cullari** exchanged vows yesterday at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros. Reception followed at Ilustrado Restaurant, Intramuros, Manila.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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- BLOOM GODDESS OF THE AISLE: THE LATEST TRENDS IN BRIDAL HAIR AND MAKEUP by top makeup artists Patrick Rosas with floral stylist Tony Rodriguez.
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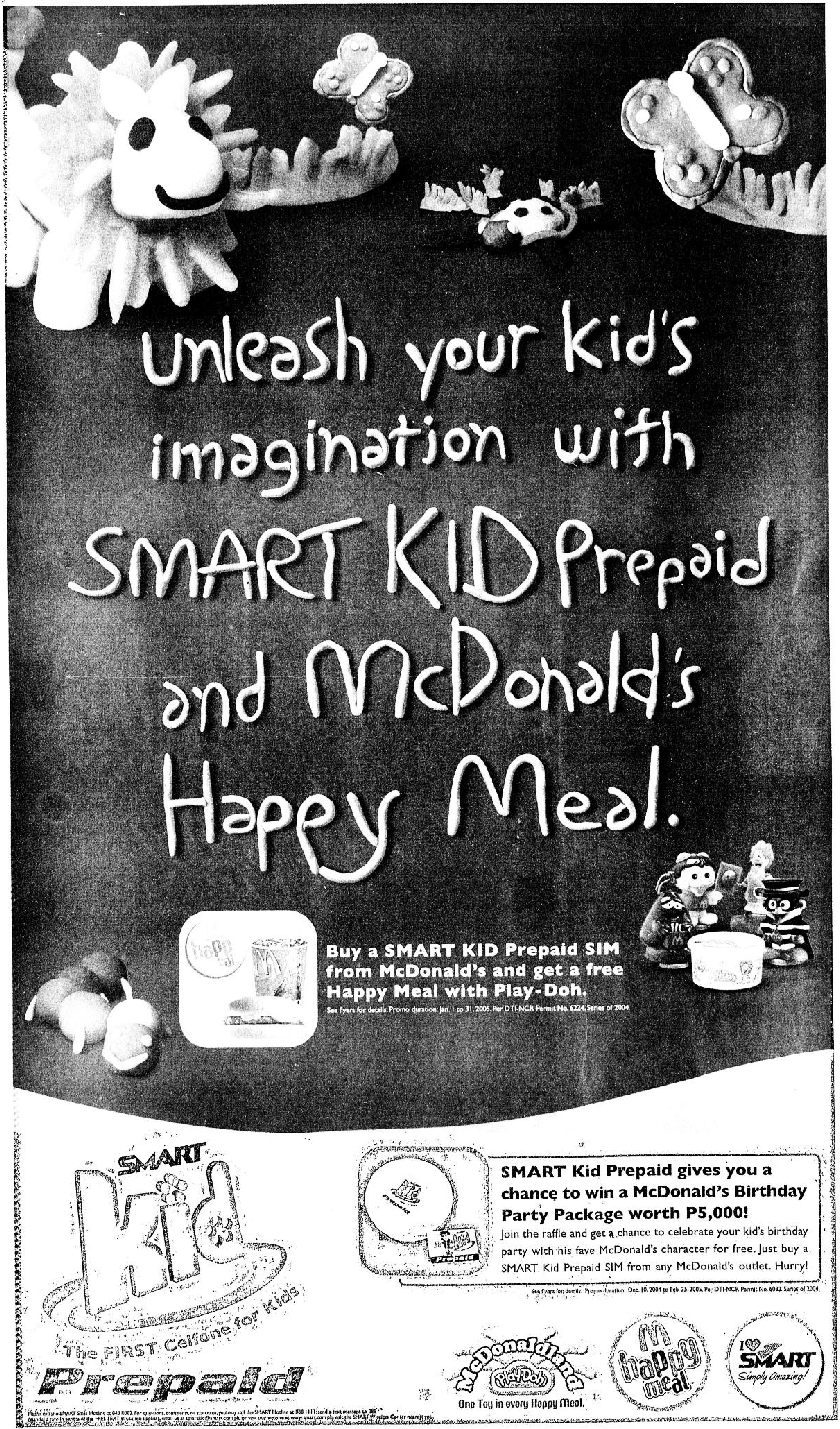
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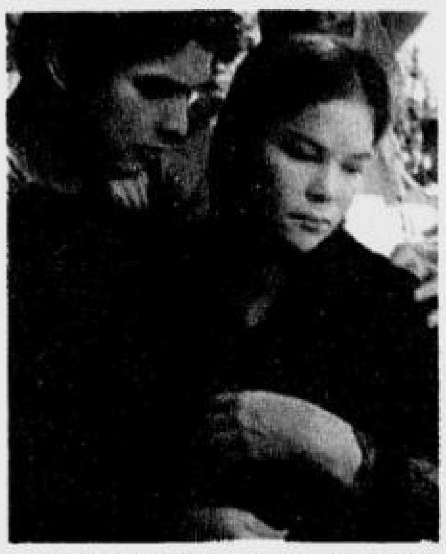
Editor
Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor
Emmie G. Velarde

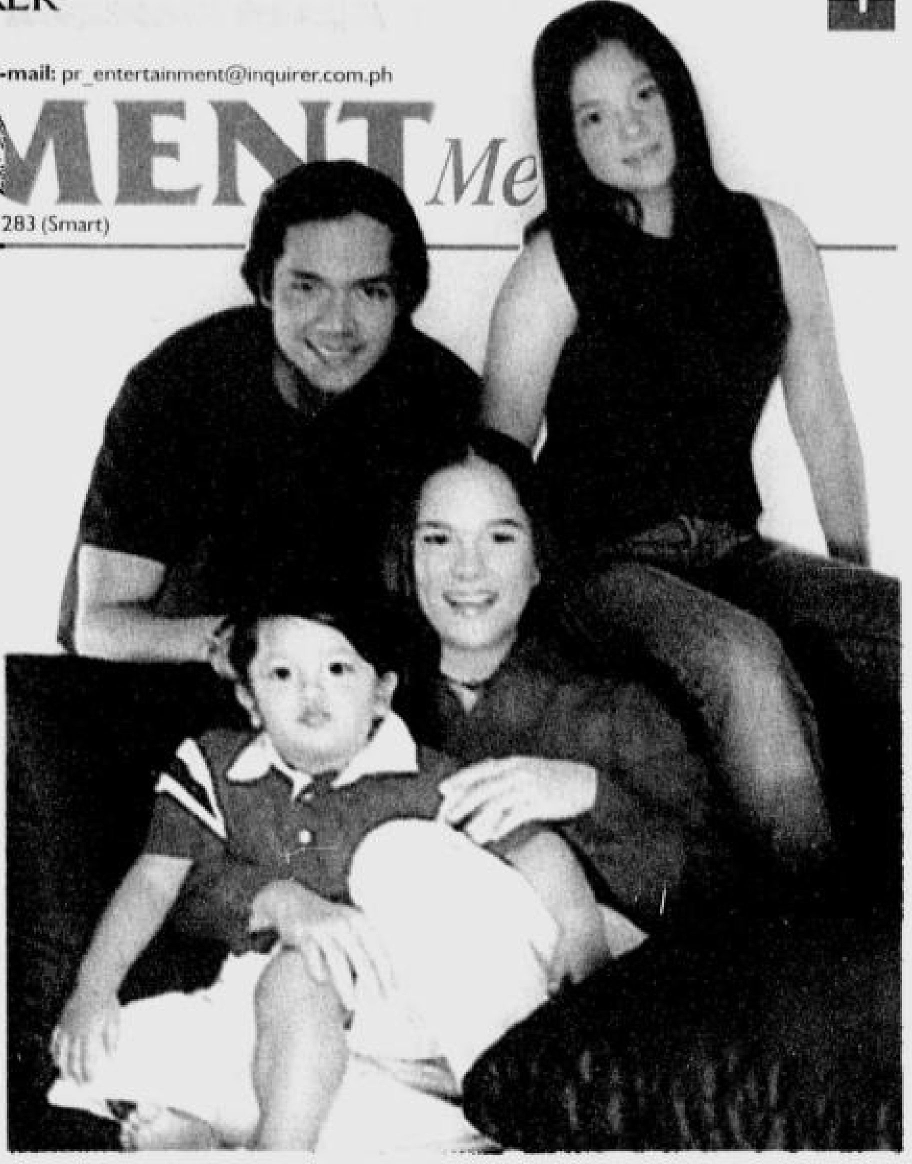
E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

The thoroughly independent Jaclyn Jose



COCO Martin is her "Masahista" costar.



WITH REAL-LIFE partner Kenneth Ilagan, kids Andrea Nicole and Gwen Garimond

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Contributor

GOOD acting is in the tiny details. And multi-awarded actress Jaclyn Jose is very particular about the most microscopic of particulars.

Inside her spiffy new van parked along Baywalk, that bustling nocturnal haunt on Roxas Boulevard, Jaclyn does her own makeup with as much meticulous passion and attention as all the Fannys and Jesis of the world.

Imagine that. The van's fluorescent bulb is her only illumination. How much better would she fare in the light of day!

Finally, she emerges from the vehicle at the stroke of midnight, all dolled up and dressed as an aging prostitute, the role she plays in her new independent film, "Sarumbanggi," directed by Eman de la Cruz.

With her mere presence, she stuns the promenaders.

Not "slutty" enough

But Jaclyn is unhappy about her costume.

"The hemline is too long," she complains. "And the blouse should be tighter."

With dispatch, the production staff weaves magic with a few safety pins, instantly turning Jaclyn's costume from "manang" to "slutty."

Not content, she drapes fishnet shawl around her slimmer (newly lipo-ed) body for a gaudier finish.

Needless to say, Jaclyn enjoys working with the ragtag crew of the independent film movement.

"They're all so young," she enthuses, speaking in Filipino. "And they're from UP (University of the Philippines)—and are all English-speaking."

Before starting work on "Sarumbanggi," Jaclyn wrapped up her scenes in another independent venture, "Masahista" under the direction of her "Private Show" and "Takaw Tukso" production designer Dante Mendoza.

"He's a dear old friend," she says. "He's good. His film is very visual—a director's movie, I told him. That's why I will not compete with him; it is his film."

Both Eman and Dante are debuting directors and both films will serve as the launching movies of two young actors, Carlo Abad in "Sarumbanggi" and Coco Martin in "Masahista."

Jaclyn is a staunch champion of the independent film movement and gives all-out support to first-time actors and directors.

"That's where I came from," she recalls fondly, "independent movies."

So it's like going back to her roots and paying a debt of gratitude to the valiant artists who supported her when she herself was a novice. "Actresses like Anita Linda and Liza Lorena willingly acted with me even though I was new," she says.

Very optimistic

Jaclyn is not disheartened by the sorry state of the local movie industry. In the crisis, in fact, she sees glimmers of hope.

"It's very exciting," she says. "I believe that this is just the beginning. If we are going to take this path and continue making this type of independent movies (like the ones she's doing now), it will be good for the industry. We can continue what they started in the '70s. But this time, I feel, the commitment is deeper. I hope more Filipinos will watch and appreciate these efforts."

Not that Jaclyn is no longer interested in mainstream movies.

In fact, in the recently concluded Metro Manila Film Festival, she shone brightly (as usual) in the Joel Lamangan war epic "Aishite Imasu 1941 (Mahal Kita)."

We tell her that her tragi-comic performance as dressmaker Melba, adoptive aunt of the heroine portrayed by Judy Ann Santos, was reminiscent of the acting of the late great Charito Solis.

She agrees: "That was my tribute to Tita Chato. In 'Sarumbanggi,' I am thinking of doing a Lolita Rodriguez."

How about "Masahista"?

"That was just Jaclyn," she says sheepishly. "Dante was joking that this film shows what happened to our characters in 'Private Show' and 'Macho Dancer' years later. I became the mother of a male masseur. While Alan (Paule of 'Macho Dancer') turned gay because of all of his homosexual encounters!"

Wickedly funny

This is one seldom-seen side of great tragediennes: that they possess a wacky and wicked sense of humor.

Just like Hilda Koronel and Nora Aunor, Jaclyn Jose can be outrageously and audaciously funny.

While perorating on the state of independent cinema, a trio of rowdy kids (not hers) raised a racket near us.

Feigning distraction, she gasped without skipping a beat: "*Yaya*, take them to the park!"

Last year, she remained good-natured even when she was hounded by reporters regarding the slapping incident on the ABS-CBN 2 soap "Hiram." Co-star Kris Aquino complained that Jaclyn's slap was all too real.

"When the TV *chismis* shows called, I told them: 'What's the interview for? Nothing happened as far as I was concerned!' It's such a waste of time."

She recounted a recent trip to the hospital for a liposuction treatment under surgeon Dr. Alfred Callanta with characteristic hilarity.

Still sedated, she was informed that the operation was a success.

"Don't wake me up; I still want to sleep," was her groggy reply.

Earlier, right after a skin-peeling session with Dr. Isabel Nazal, she motored to faraway Pampanga for a "Masahista" shoot looking like beef carpaccio, a la Samantha on "Sex and the City."

She roars: "It worked to my character's advantage because I was supposed to be stressed and harassed since my husband just passed away."

Coming to terms

She was never a big fan of cosmetic surgery, she says, "or of anything artificial." But she was convinced to go under the knife, "for art's sake," so to speak.

"Well, I'm 41," she says candidly. "I have come to terms with the fact that I would now be playing mother to the likes of Claudine (Barretto), Judy Ann (Santos), and Jolina (Magdangal), but I also realized that doing this can help me stretch my range as an actor."

An actor's body, after all, is his main instrument.

"This is the perfect time for me," she points out. "It's because I still want to do so much more. And this will allow me to do more, and different, roles."

After 26 years of emoting onscreen, does Jaclyn still find it hard to weep buckets in front of the camera?

"With the things that are happening now, it's a cinch," she quips. All she has to do at the moment, she says, is watch CNN or recall the tragedies in Quezon, Aurora, Thailand, and Indonesia.

"Even 9-11 made me cry," she confesses. "That's the thing about actors, we are very sensitive. We get easily affected by the things that happen around us."

In the same way, she can smile and laugh effortlessly.

"Simple things do the trick," she says. "I'm so shallow. When my 3-year-old son Gwen says something that sounds so mature, or when my 14-year-old daughter Andie acts like an adult . . . those things make my day!"

Would she permit her kids to follow in her actor's footsteps?

"No," the protective mom speaks. "Modeling on TV and in magazines should be enough for them, because if they get hurt, I'd be the first to cry."

Weep no more for Jaclyn, because she can swiftly turn tears to trophies at the drop of a hat. Or a fishnet shawl.

WOMAN OF CHARACTERS

HERE'S an actor we'd see in any movie, independent or mainstream. She dedicates every performance to a role model, like Charito Solis or Lolita Rodriguez. Sometimes she plays it straight up like Jaclyn Jose.

MMFF organizers exhorted: Plug 'holes' before '05 fest

By Marinel R. Cruz

LOOPHOLES found in the rules and regulations of the Metro Manila Film Festival should be plugged in time for next year's event, according to film producer Wilson Tieng, a member of the 2004 MMFF executive committee.

"Except for the controversy in the beginning, the film fest was very successful," Tieng told INQUIRER Entertainment on Friday. "We just have to fine-tune the rules and regulations to avoid protests."

Tieng was referring to complaints that Regal Films matriarch Lily Monteverde produced four of the final eight movies in the yearend festival's lineup.

Three producers filed separate protests before the execom last August, pointing out that "Mano Po 3: My Love," "So Happy Together," "Aishite Imasu 1941" and "Sigaw" were all "productions of the Monteverde group."

The committee said it "considered" the complaints, but that the lineup was final.

As far as Tieng is concerned, all's well that ends well. "In terms of box-office returns, this year's fest is the best so far," he said.

According to the film fest committee report released last Friday, OctoArts Films' "Enteng Kabisote: Okay Ka Fairy Ko . . . The Legend," starring Vic Sotto and Kristine Hermosa, emerged over all top-grosser.

"Enteng" earned P101.6 million from the festival opening day on Dec. 25 to the last day on Jan. 5.

On second slot is Regal Films' romantic comedy "So Happy Together," which made P45.1 million. The movie has former sweethearts Kris Aquino and Eric Quizon in the lead roles, with young actors Mark Herras, Jennylyn Mercado, Yasmien Kurdi and Rainier Castillo as support cast.

Joey Reyes' "Spirit of the Glass," the horror movie produced by Canary Films, ranked third. The movie, starring Rica Peralejo, Marvin Agustin, Alessandra de Rossi and Paolo Contis, earned P39.3 million.

MAQ Productions' "Mano Po 3: My Love" may celebrate its Best Picture award, but its box-office showing is nothing to rejoice about. The Vilma Santos-Christopher de Leon starrer ranked fourth, with P35.3 million.

MegaVision's "Sigaw," starring Angel Locsin and Richard Gutierrez of GMA 7's top-rating series "Mulawin," placed fifth with P25.3 million.

Viva Films' "Lastikman," portrayed by young star Mark Bautista, landed the sixth slot with P24.5 million. The original movie of the same title with Vic Sotto in the lead role was the 2002 festival top-grosser.

On seventh slot is Cesar Montano's "Panaghoy sa Suba," which earned P15.8 million. Cesar produced, directed, and acted in the movie that was made entirely in Cebuano, with Bohol's famous Loboc River as backdrop.

At the bottom rung is the World War II epic drama "Aishite Imasu 1941," with Judy Ann Santos, Raymart Santiago, Jay Manalo, and newcomer Dennis Trillo. The film made P13.7 million.

Rules 'adjusted'

MLR Films Joji Alonso, Seiko Films' Robbie Tan and Viva Films' Vic del Rosario were the three producers who filed the complaints four months before the MMFF started.

Alonso claimed that the execom adjusted rules and regulations "to favor certain producers over the others."

Tan said a theater chain was reserved last July for the public screening of "Sigaw" in September, "under the account of Regal."

Del Rosario claimed that Monteverde herself negotiated for the services of actress Anne Curtis, an exclusive Viva talent, for "Sigaw."

Princess would have wanted to spend more time with dad Orly

"PRINCESS gave up her apartment and moved in with our dad almost a year ago, because she wanted to spend time with him."

Paolo Punzalan thús described to INQUIRER Entertainment the relationship between his actress-sister and their father, broadcaster Orly Punzalan, before the latter died on Friday.

"We were separated from our dad for 15 years," Paolo said. "He had another family, but in the end we more than made up for lost time. We became very close to them."

Paolo and Princess are Orly's children with the late Helen Vela, also a broadcaster and actress.

Orly, 70, died of cardiac arrest at the National Kidney Institute. Paolo and Princess were with his wife Pilar at the time of his death.

"We call her 'Tita' (auntie)," Paolo said of Pilar. We all spent Christmas at my house in Pasig."

Orly was one of the recipients of the first Edsa People Power Freedom Award, handed out in February 2000. He was station manager of Radio Veritas during the peaceful revolt of 1986. He called for public support via dzRV.

PUNZALAN

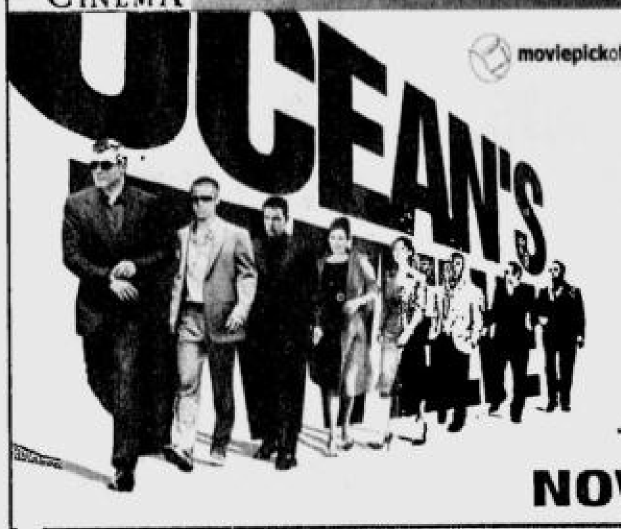
Immediately before joining Veritas in 1976, he was with Channel 4.

Orly spent his last working years teaching broadcasting at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, University of Perpetual Help-Rizal, St. Paul School-Cavite, and Southville International School in Las Piñas.

Marinel R. Cruz

SM CINEMA movietime

moviepickoftheWeek



GEORGE CLOONEY
BRAD PITT
MATT DAMON
CATHERINE ZETA-JONES
ANDY GARCIA
DON CHEADLE
BERNIE MAC
AND JULIA ROBERTS

TWELVE IS THE NEW ELEVEN.
OCEAN'S TWELVE

NOW SHOWING

OPENS THIS WEEK

BLADE TRINITY
MTRCB RATING: R13

For years, Blade has fought against the vampires in the cover of night, with the world above unaware of the brutal ongoing war. But now, after falling into the crosshairs of the FBI, he is forced out into the daylight where he is driven to join forces with a clan of human vampire hunters he never knew existed - The Nightstalkers. Together with Abigail (Jessica Biel) and Hannibal (Ryan Reynolds), two deftly trained Nightstalkers, Blade follows a trail of blood to an ancient creature that is hunting him... the original vampire, Dracula.

Now Showing at:
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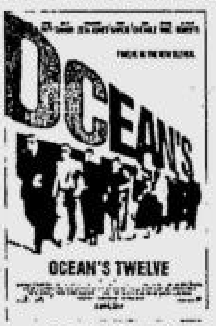
KUNG FU HUSTLE
MTRCB RATING: PG13

A hapless wanna be gangster, Sing, must overcome his inability to wield a knife and demonstrate his mettle in order to become a member of the notorious Axe Gang. After several encounters with thugs and a fearsome adversary known as the Beast, Sing overcomes his inadequacy and realizes he is the greatest kung fu master of them all, destined to protect the sacred street.

Now Showing at:
SM Megamall • Fairview North Edsa Manila • Sta. Mesa Southmall • Tutuban • Bicutan Sucat



OCEAN'S TWELVE
MTRCB RATING: PG13

Daniel Ocean recruits one more team member so he can pull off three major European heists in this sequel to Ocean's 11. It's three years later and Terry Benedict wants his money back. While Ocean and his team are spread out all over the U.S., Benedict tracks down every single one of them. Now, Ocean's Eleven is back together and they need to pay Benedict back PLUS interest within two weeks. The team travels to Amsterdam to start a new heist.

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1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE

METRO MANILA

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1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 SIGAW
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE
5 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
6 AISHITE IMASU 1941
7 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
8 MANO PO 3
9 ENTENG KABISOTE
10 BLADE TRINITY
11 LASTIKMAN
12 PANAGHOY SA SUBA

sm city fairview
1 LASTIKMAN
2 SIGAW
3 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
4 BLADE TRINITY
5 ENTENG KABISOTE
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE
7 BLADE TRINITY
8 KUNG FU HUSTLE
9 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
10 AISHITE IMASU 1941
11 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
12 MANO PO 3

sm city manila
1 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 OCEAN'S TWELVE
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 BLADE TRINITY
5 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
6 BLADE TRINITY
7 AISHITE IMASU 1941
8 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
9 ENTENG KABISOTE
10 SIGAW
11 LASTIKMAN
12 MANO PO 3

sm city sta. mesa
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 MANO PO 3
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
5 OCEAN'S TWELVE
6 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
7 LASTIKMAN
8 SIGAW
9 ENTENG KABISOTE
10 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

sm city southmall
1 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 SIGAW
3 BLADE TRINITY
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE
5 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
6 AISHITE IMASU 1941
7 ENTENG KABISOTE
8 OCEAN'S TWELVE
9 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
10 MANO PO 3

sm city north edsa
1 SIGAW
2 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 ENTENG KABISOTE
5 MANO PO 3
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE
7 BLADE TRINITY
8 KUNG FU HUSTLE

sm cinema tutuban
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE

sm supercenter sucat
1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 BLADE TRINITY
4 SO HAPPY TOGETHER

sm city bicutan
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE

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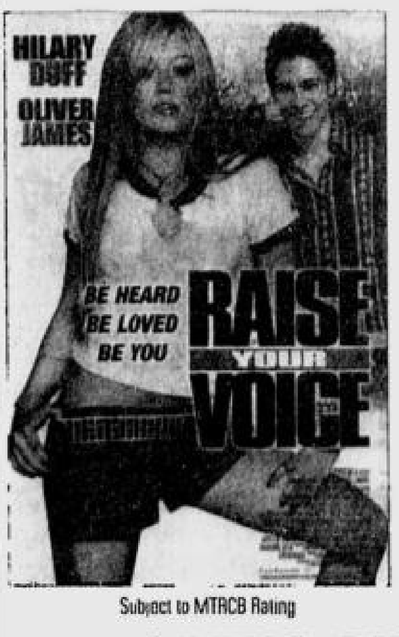

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BE LOVED
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Subject to MTRCB Rating

Red Carpet

RAISE YOUR VOICE

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OPENS ON JANUARY 12

MARTIN SCORSESE with French Culture Minister Donnedieu de Vabres after the ceremoney in Paris

France decorates Scorsese, DiCaprio

PARIS—France honored movie director Martin Scorsese by making him an officer of its Legion of Honor and gave Leonardo DiCaprio the slightly less prestigious Arts and Letters award at a ceremony on Wednesday.

Culture Minister Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres hailed Scorsese's respect "for the rights of artists" and said the acclaimed director gave life to "cinema that everyone—French, Europeans and Americans—likes."

"I don't know what to say after such a presentation," Scorsese said.

"French cinema of the late Fifties, and the Sixties and Seventies still, for me, is such an extraordinary inspiration. Nothing has really come close to it in recent years," he added. "I owe a great debt to French cinema."

Napoleon Bonaparte created the Legion d'Honneur in 1802. It recognizes military, cultural, scientific or social contributions to France, including by people who aren't French citizens.

The French minister hailed DiCaprio as a movie icon and as the "little prince of Hollywood and bad boy of Los Angeles." *AP*

Travolta, Gandolfini in '40s detective film

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood star John Travolta and James Gandolfini, best known as the mafia patriarch of television's "The Sopranos," will star in a new detective drama set in the 1940s, the trade magazine Variety reported Thursday.

The movie, "Lonely Hearts," is based on the true story of detectives who captured a couple known as the "Lonely Hearts Killers" who found their victims through newspaper personal ads.

Todd Robinson, whose credits include the script for the upcoming movie "The Last Full Measure," will be behind the cameras.

Filming begins in March in Florida, Variety reported. *AFP*

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2 (DOLBY) KUNG FU HUSTLE PG13
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2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 (SDDS) RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DOLBY) RESERVE
7 (DTS) RESERVE
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

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2 ENTENG KABISOTE

Lianas Cinema
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2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 SAMBAHIN ANG PURI MO
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2 (SDDS) KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 GOLD (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) ENTENG KABISOTE
6 GOLD (SDDS) KUNG FU HUSTLE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) HAPPY TOGETHER
8 [illegible] SIGAW
9 [illegible] SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
10 [illegible] MANO PO-3

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2 SIGAW
3 MANO PO -3
4 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

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2 (DOLBY) OCEAN'S TWELVE
3 (DOLBY) KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 (DOLBY) OCEAN'S TWELVE

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3 (DTS) KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 (Dolby) SO HAPPY TOGETHER
5 (Dolby) ENTENG KABISOTE

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4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) BLADE TRINITY
5 OCEAN'S TWELVE

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2 NAGDADALAGA
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 ENTENG KABISOTE
5 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHOW TIME

Mr. C at UPHS reunion

RYAN "CIP" Cayabyab is one of the hosts of UP High School Class 1970s 35th anniversary celebration, a grand gathering of members, former teachers and "adopted" members.

The weekend event at 15 Mount Fuji St., Filinvest 1, Batasan Hills 1101 Quezon City started yesterday and winds up today.

Participants have been asked to bring photographs and other souvenirs.

Ryan furnished the venue with nothing but a grand piano. "All we will do is reminisce and sing about this happy chapter of our lives," he said.

Meanwhile, Class '70 continues to hold programs that support its beloved alma mater. Says class foundation president Sally Jose: "We like sharing blessings with UPHS students who have the same dreams and aspirations as we did then. We want to help nurture the future leaders of the country."

For more information on UP High Class '70, call Sally at (0917) 527-1269, Teresa at (0917) 830-3513, or Cholo at (0920) 537-5116.

OVERHEARD THIS WEEK

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS ENTERTAINMENT COVERAGE

"**I WOULD** like to preserve a good image and not play the bad guy or do anything that's obscene." —"American Idol" reject William Hung, saying he wants to play only good guys in his fledgling acting career.

"There's a bit of a myth here with me and Shakespeare. Like I'm piped into Shakespeare or something. I'm not. Believe me. I'm not here to be a representative or sort of present Shakespeare to the world. He doesn't need me." —Al Pacino, via AP Radio. Pacino plays Shylock in the new film "The Merchant of Venice."

"Peter Pan of cinema, you are a global star." —French Culture Minister Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres, presenting the Arts and Letters award to actor Leonardo DiCaprio.

"I was considering retiring this year and going into bodybuilding with the thought in mind of becoming governor of California. But I decided to instead stay with the body I have and the job I have." —Bob Barker, agreeing to continue as host of the CBS game show "The Price Is Right" for a record 34th season.

POWER PLANT
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OCEAN'S TWELVE PG13 1:20,3:50,6:20,8:50	OCEAN'S TWELVE PG13 11:40,2:10,4:40,7:10,9:40	BLADE 3: TRINITY R13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:20
KUNG FU HUSTLE PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05	SO HAPPY TOGETHER PG13 12:40,5:20,10:00 MANO PO 3 GP 3:00,7:40	OCEAN'S TWELVE PG13 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30

star group of cinemas movie guide
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3 Kung Fu Hustle	1 Happy Together	1 Around the World in 80 days
4 Blade 3	2 Nagdadalaga	2 Sigaw
5 Oceans 12	3 Kung Fu Hustle	
	4 Enteng Kabisote	
	5 Blade 3	
	6 Oceans 12	

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1	BLADE III 10:40, 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 R-13
2	OCEAN'S 12 11:10, 2:05, 5:05 8:05, 11:05 PG-13
3	KUNG FU HUSTLE 11:00, 1:25, 3:50 6:15, 8:40, 11:00 PG-13
4	OCEAN'S 12 11:15, 2:40, 5:25 8:10, 10:50 PG-13

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CINEMA 1	OCEAN'S TWELVE 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50 PG13
CINEMA 2	KUNG FU HUSTLE 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 PG13

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① OCEAN'S TWELVE FS 1PM, 4PM, 7PM LMF 10:00PM (PG-13)	③ BLADE TRINITY FS 12PM, 2:30PM, 5PM, 7:30PM LMF 10:00PM (R-13)
② KUNG FU HUSTLE FS 12:20PM, 2:45PM, 5:10PM, 7:35PM, LMF 10:00PM (PG-13)	④ OCEAN'S TWELVE FS 12:30PM, 3:30PM, 6:30PM LMF 9:30PM (PG-13)

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OCEAN'S TWELVE	12:45 1:15 3:35 4:05 6:25 6:55 9:15 9:45
BLADE : TRINITY	12:05 12:35 2:25 2:55 4:45 5:15 7:05 7:35 9:25
KUNG FU HUSTLE	12:50 1:20 3:00 3:30 5:10 5:40 7:20 7:50 9:30
ENTENG KABISOTE	1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10
SO HAPPY TOGETHER	12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:05
MANO PO 3	12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1	OCEAN'S TWELVE	12:00 2:50 5:40 8:30
2	BLADE: TRINITY	11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30
3	KUNG FU HUSTLE	11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40
4	SO HAPPY TOGETHER	11:20 1:30 3:40 5:50 8:00
5	ENTENG KABISOTE	12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00

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Jan. 14	
Jan. 16	
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GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 OCEAN'S TWELVE • THX 11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00	6 OCEAN'S TWELVE 11:10 1:45 4:20 6:55 9:30
2 BLADE TRINITY 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	7 PANAGHOY SA SUBA 11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00	8 MANO PO 3 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
4 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00	9 SIGAW 11:40 2:10 4:40 7:10 9:40
5 KUNG FU HUSTLE 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	10 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS 11:40 1:55 4:10 6:25 9:40

ERMITA 538-7809 to 12

1 OCEAN'S TWELVE	11:10 1:50 4:30 7:10 9:50
2 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:15 10:00	5 ENTENG KABISOTE 11:15 1:50 4:25 7:00 9:40
3 BLADE TRINITY 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	6 RESERVE
4 SIGAW 10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50	7 KUNG FU HUSTLE 10:30 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 • 682-8280

1 MANO PO 3 11:00 1:05 3:10 5:15 7:20 9:30	5 KUNG FU HUSTLE 12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30
2 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER 12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00	6 OCEAN'S TWELVE 12:05 2:45 5:25 8:05 10:30
3 SIGAW 11:00 1:05 3:10 5:15 7:20 9:30	7 BLADE TRINITY 11:50 2:30 5:10 7:50 10:30
4 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS 10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00	8 ENTENG KABISOTE 11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:30 10:30

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

1 OCEAN'S TWELVE 11:50 2:40 5:30 8:25	5 KUNG FU HUSTLE 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
2 MANO PO 3 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30	6 BLADE TRINITY 10:20 12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS 10:40 1:05 3:30 5:55 8:25	7 ENTENG KABISOTE 10:15 12:45 3:15 5:45 8:25
4 SIGAW 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30	8 AISHITE IMASU 11:00 1:00 3:00

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Exclusive
SCREENING
TWO BROTHERS
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Robinsons Movieworld
METRO EAST
MTRCB Rating: G

PIONEER 687-5378

1 OCEAN'S TWELVE 10:40 1:20 4:00 6:40 9:00	3 ENTENG KABISOTE 10:25 1:00 3:35 6:10 8:45
2 BLADE TRINITY 11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 8:50	4 KUNG FU HUSTLE 11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 8:50

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985 / 2575

1 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS 11:30 1:45 4:00 6:15 8:30	3 ENTENG KABISOTE 10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30
2 MANO PO 3 10:30 12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30	4 SIGAW 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30

CAINTA 240-4661

1 OCEAN'S TWELVE 12:20 3:00 5:40 8:20	3 KUNG FU HUSTLE 10:55 1:25 3:55 6:25 8:55
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:20	4 BLADE TRINITY 10:35 1:10 3:45 6:20 8:55

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HAIR AND GROOMING BY AGATHA OF SALON YSABEL
OUTFITS BY SPRINGFIELD, GREENBELT 3

Paolo Contis finds focus

By Larry Leviste
Contributor

PAOLO Contis, ensemble star of Jose Javier Reyes' "Spirit of the Glass," is ready for his appointments with destiny this brand new year. Keenly watched over by his industry "parents" Reyes and manager Lolit Solis, this former child actor is headed for success.

"My New Year's resolution is to focus on my career," Paolo recalls. "I'm turning 21 and last year I was waylaid by my tempestuous romance with [actress] Nancy Castigleoni. We're both half-Italian. We were together 24/7 and became anti-social."

Nancy and Paolo have not spoken to or seen each other since their split-up two months ago—after two years.

"My relationship with Nancy has taught me to concentrate on the now. I am going to work on my acting skills, my technique," Paolo says, smiling.

For this exclusive pictorial, Paolo is geared up in top-of-the-line men's wear by the Brit brand Springfield. The store is located in Greenbelt 3, Makati City.

LEATHER jacket in navy and a mailman's bag

LAYERED gear in shades of brown

LOOKING comfy in playful sportswear

BLUE shirt, orange tie under hooded sweater

Onemig's family donates land to typhoon victims

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—The family of movie actor Onemig Bondoc has donated a one-hectare piece of land to the local government of Infanta, Quezon for the planned resettlement of thousands of victims of the four killer typhoons that hit the province in November and December.

"They need all the help we can give," Onemig told the INQUIRER Entertainment. "Especially the children."

On Monday, the actor was one of the guests during the groundbreaking ceremony for a relocation site in Barangay Agos-Agos.

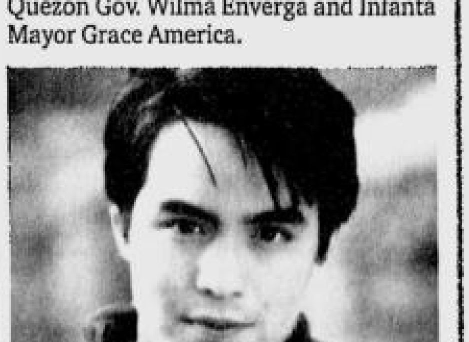
The property will be the site of a P1.6-billion mass housing project for 3,500 families.

Onemig said family members have not decided what to do with the adjoining hectare, which it also owns, along with 50 more nearby and in the neighboring village of Banugao.

He said they might "offer" the land to the local government as a possible relocation site for the town hall, schools and other government buildings.

After the groundbreaking rites, residents rushed to Onemig's side, many of them seeking his autograph and posing for snapshots, but mostly just asking to shake his hand.

The ceremony was attended by Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, Filipino-American Congressman Felipe Abensay of Hawaii, Defense Undersecretary Ernesto Carolina, Southern Luzon Command chief Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, Bishops Julio Labayen and Rolando Tirona, Congressman Rafael Nantes, Quezon Gov. Wilma Enverga and Infanta Mayor Grace America.



ONEMIG BONDOC: They need all the help we can give.

'Hitler's Hit Parade' definitely not a nice journey to the past

NEW YORK—"Hitler's Hit Parade" is hardly a smooth trip down memory lane. This film's juxtaposition of romantic songs and wartime brutalities can cause viewers to squirm or turn away in horror.

The disturbing collage of Third Reich musicals, newsreels, home movies, cartoons and commercials, including rare segments in color, shows how the Nazis relied on escapist entertainment to promote their murderous ideology and bolster the veneer of normalcy during the nightmare of Adolf Hitler's reign.

The 75-minute production, co-directed by Oliver Axer and Susanne Benze, opened Wednesday for a two-week run in New York—the US premiere after limited screenings in Germany. It's a provocative study of seductive propaganda techniques, a partial explanation of the riddle of mass German support for Hitler.

Portraying themselves as protectors of German traditions and historic continuity, the Nazis promised law and order and national respect at a time of economic despair when Hitler came to power in 1933. Lighthearted entertainment was allowed to flourish to distract Germans from harsh realities of totalitarianism.

Don't ask

Sentimental songs churned out by Germany's light-music industry were crammed with code words like "fate" and "homeland" that served as psychological tools to enforce mass conformity.

> The movie is crammed with songs that sport titles like 'Don't Ask How,' Don't Ask Where,' 'Don't Let It Bother You,' and 'Everything in Life Will Pass'

Allusions to discipline and obedience were reflected in seemingly innocuous popular tunes with titles like "Don't Ask How, Don't Ask Where," "Don't Let It Bother You" and "Everything in Life Will Pass."

"I know a miracle will happen some day and a thousand fairy tales will come true," Zarah Leander, a wartime diva, croons in one segment, hinting at "wonder weapons" rumored to be in Hitler's arsenal to beat back the allies.

"Entertainment rather than propaganda proved to be the most effective support for the regime," Moshe Zimmermann wrote in his Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper review of the film. "One could whistle 'Eternal Spring,' take pleasure in Heinz Ruehmann's amusing films, sing along with the pop tune 'The World Isn't Collapsing' as bombs fell, and the world seemed intact."

"Hitler's Hit Parade" (in German with English subtitles) plays out without a spoken commentary, instead using Nazi catch phrases to preface segments on idealized Third Reich society. Lyrics from 20 popular songs serve as ironic commentaries on the sinister policies propelling German industrial expansion for the coming war, mass physical fitness, higher birth rates, anti-Semitism, military training and adulation of Hitler.

Nazi rhetoric

The film shows "how dangerously tempting and engaging the general mood of an era can be," according to co-director Axer. It serves as a warning to "recognize the true, hidden meanings before believing" in the brave new world promised in Nazi rhetoric.

Interspersed with sugary ballads and sentimental love songs are films of blond girl gymnasts, German cars on the new autobahns, humming factories, a physician encouraging a couple to have babies, Hitler at his alpine retreat and waving to crowds at mass demonstrations and Hitler Youth in military training.

The scenes become increasingly militant. In a sequence about "Our Women," a home movie shows a German woman and a Slavic man being paraded through a village to have their heads shaved in public for an illegal relationship banned by Nazi racial laws.

Accompanied by a love song, "A Star Fell from Heaven," the documentary shows anti-Semitic caricatures of Jews, and newsreels of ghettos with people wearing Star of David insignias on their coats.

With the advertising slogan, "Millions Ride German Rail" promoting travel for pleasure, cattle cars filled with humans are shown en route to Auschwitz, and "Take Commuter Rail to the Country" shows doomed Jewish inmates at another concentration camp.

To the strains of "When the Lights Shine Again," Germans are shown filing into bunkers to escape bombings. The scene abruptly switches to color newsreels of bombed out cities and smoking piles of corpses.

"Wake Up, Germany," a Nazi brownshirt slogan, serves as the chapter heading for films showing the liberation of death camps and skeletal survivors, a shrunken head and another head preserved in a jar from Nazi medical experiments.

In the closing scene, a little boy with a US Army insignia pinned on his shirt, smiles through tears at his rescue from a death camp. *Reuters*

US producers' guild ranks 'Incredibles' among the best

LOS ANGELES—"The Incredibles," an animated film about a family of superheroes, was a surprise pick when the Producers Guild of America announced its nominations for its best movie of the year award.

Also nominated for the awards to be presented on Jan. 22 were comedy hit "Sideways," boxing drama "Million Dollar Baby," epic "The Aviator," about eccentric billionaire Howard Hughes," and "Finding Neverland," about the man who created "Peter Pan."

Because animated movies seldom are given the same respect as live-action films, the selection of "The Incredibles," one of the year's big box office draws, was a surprise.

Richard Gladstein, producer of "Finding Neverland," told Reuters he was also surprised by the inclusion of "Incredibles" because the Producers Guild of America only has one film award for best film production compared with other groups' awards that honor music, special effects or animation.

For example, the Oscars, which are the US film industry's top honors, has a separate category for best animated film.

Huge hit

Gladstein said that his own film "was not a very expensive or elaborate film, so I imagine what got to them was the content and the emotion of the film, as opposed to extravagance.

"The Incredibles" has been a huge hit for Pixar Animation Studios Inc. and The Walt Disney Co., raking in more than $250 million at US and Canadian box offices. That trounces the other films against which it competes. "Sideways," for example, has taken in $22 million in the same markets.

Awards and nominations from industry associations like the Producers Guild often help narrow the choices for Oscars. Many of the group's members also belong to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which awards the Oscars.

The Oscars will be given out on Feb. 27, and next on the awards watch list in Hollywood will be the Screen Actors Guild nominations on Jan. 11. The Screen Actors Guild, or SAG, represents US film and television actors.

The Producers Guild also gives awards to TV shows, and in the category for best drama, long-time hits "The West Wing," Mafia show "The Sopranos," "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" and "Six Feet Under," about a family of undertakers, compete with relative newcomer "Nip/Tuck," about two plastic surgeons.

Among the TV comedy nominees was "Arrested Development," about the family of an imprisoned real estate developer which earned US TV's top award, the Emmy, this past September. It will go up against "Will & Grace," "Curb Your Enthusiasm," "Scrubs," and "Sex and the City." *Reuters*

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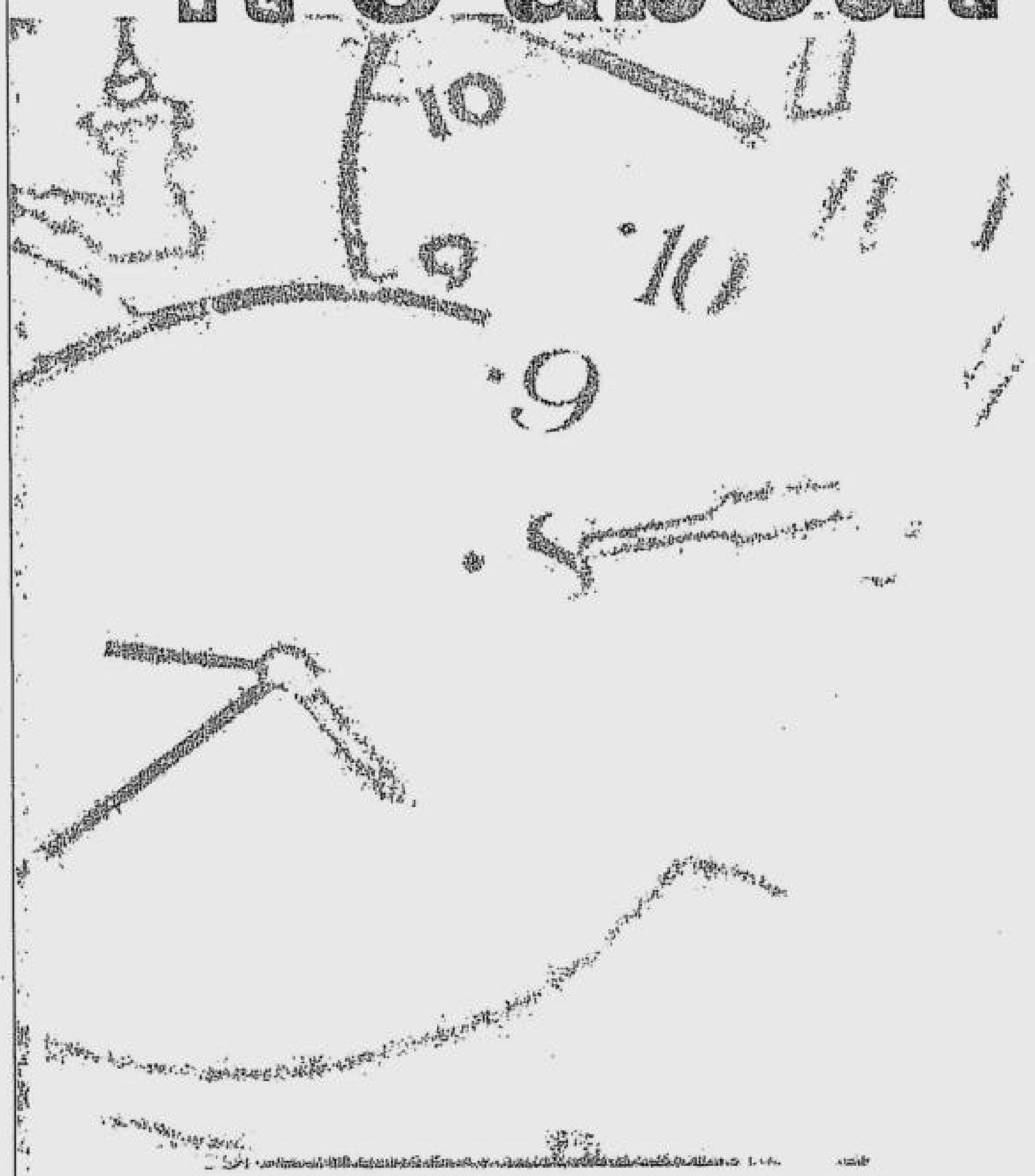

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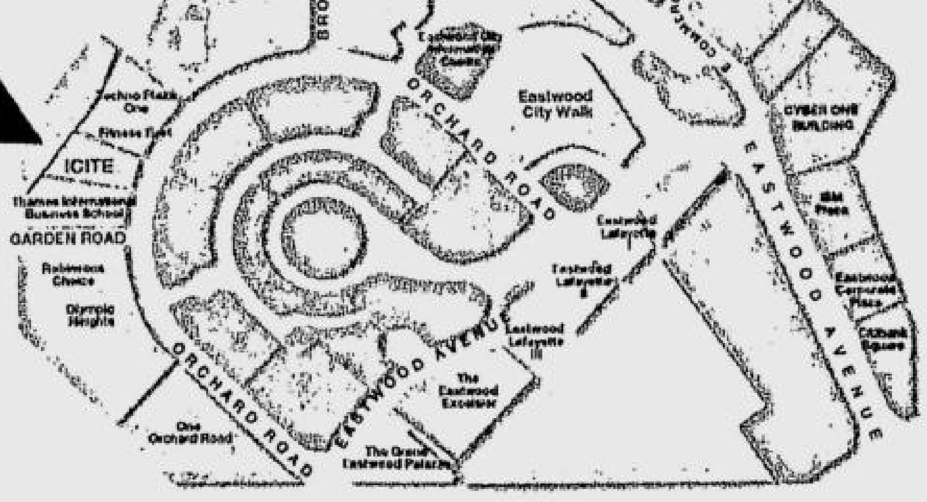
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- Will work with marketing and sales channels in providing fund/market information to support the sales and marketing effort
- Graduate of any 4 year business course; CFA Charterholder (or Level II candidate) is highly desirable
- 3 – 5 years experience in relevant investment analysis, fixed income research, portfolio management or investment consulting, equity research and/or trading would be an advantage

ACCOUNT ASSOCIATES (Kalookan & Makati)
- Will be responsible in assisting Account Officers in servicing of accounts and handling of the documentation of accounts
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Must possess good analytical skills; good communication skills; highly developed interpersonal skills and a high sense of responsibility

ACCOUNT OFFICER – Corporate Banking (Kalookan)
- Will be responsible in evaluating and recommending Credit facilities/loan proposals. Candidate will also market and manage borrowing clients' availments, collections and accommodations of credit facilities
- Minimum 3 years experience as Corporate Account Officer in any Commercial/Universal Bank

MARKETING ASSOCIATE
- Will be responsible in carrying out marketing and selling activities of the ROPOA properties and documentation of sale of acquired assets
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Must know how to drive
- Work experience in a similar field will be an advantage

ACCOUNT OFFICER – Acquired Assets (Vismin)
- Will be responsible in the marketing and selling of all industrial and agricultural ROPOA assets
- Graduate of any 4 year business course, preferably Marketing
- Must have experience in conducting market/feasibility studies

DEALER COORDINATOR
- Will be responsible in soliciting auto loan applications from various Car Dealers
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Experience in auto loans marketing/operations will be an advantage

AUTO LOAN SECTOR HEAD
- Will be responsible for managing and controlling all consumer banking operations in Auto Loans such as loan processing, lending guidelines and other loan activities according to bank policies and procedures taking into account loan target and quality portfolio
- Minimum 2 years experience as Auto Loan Head in any Commercial/Universal Bank

ATM CHANNEL ASSOCIATE
- Will be responsible in assisting the Channel Officer in strategic planning, brand management and promotions/events management
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- At least 1 year work experience in product or brand management
- Experience in profit and loss project planning and implementation will be an advantage

PHONE BANKING CHANNEL OFFICER
- Will be responsible in designing marketing strategies; evaluating, studying and improving the Bank's Phone Banking distribution channel
- Graduate of any 4 year business course; preferably Marketing or Advertising
- At least 5 years experience in marketing in telecoms/information technology and service industries
- Knowledge in phone banking hardware and software will be an advantage

ANALYST/PROGRAMMER
- Will be responsible in translating system specifications into technical specifications & for writing program codes
- Graduate of BS Computer Science or any IT related course
- Banking experience will be an advantage

NETWORK ENGINEER
- Will be responsible for network administration, network optimization, planning, design, and evaluation. Will also handle the LAN/WAN administration, Internet/Intranet/remote access operations.
- Graduate of BS ECE or BS Computer Engineering
- At least three years experience in LAN/WAN internetworking/administration, network planning and performance management

BRANCH CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATE
- Will be responsible in client/account servicing in the branch
- Graduate of any 4 year business course

BRANCH SALES ASSOCIATE
- Will be responsible for handling and processing account opening, and other bank products
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Minimum 1 year bank experience in Branch Operations

BRANCH SALES OFFICER
- Will be responsible in account solicitation for the branch and assisting in the servicing and maintenance of existing account holders
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Minimum 2 years experience in a Sales/Marketing function in a bank or any financial institution

BRANCH SALES SPECIALISTS
- This is an entry position eventually leading to Sales Officership. Qualified candidates will undergo classroom and on the job training involving field sales calls, sales planning, prospecting, appointment getting and presentation. Candidates are expected to attain targets for number of sales calls, accounts opened and volume of funds generated.
- Graduate of any 4 year course with strong inclination and high aptitude for sales

BRANCH SERVICE HEAD
- Will be responsible for the over-all Branch Operations
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Minimum 2 years experience as Branch Operations Officer or have handled both Branch Cashier and Branch Accountant positions in any Commercial/Universal Bank

BRANCH RELATIONSHIP OFFICER
- Will be responsible in formulating plans and strategies to expand relationships within the bank's target market and for implementing of strategies for the branch target market in accordance with the Branch Sales Plan
- Minimum 2 year experience in a sales function gained from a bank or other financial institutions

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- ➢ Must have 2-3 years related experience in account solicitation of auto, housing & salary loans
- ➢ Preferably not more than 32 years old and residents from Metro Manila, Bulacan and Dagupan

▪ BRANCH MANAGERS
- ➢ Will be responsible for attaining the branch's target financial volume through deepening of existing accounts and acquisitions
- ➢ Will also be in charge of planning & implementing sales & service strategies of the branch
- ➢ Must have 3-5 years related banking experience in aggressive account generation
- ➢ Preferably not more than 42 years old
- ➢ Preferably residents from Metro Manila,Tarlac, Cebu & Iloilo

▪ CUSTOMER SERVICE HEADS
- ➢ Will be responsible for developing, managing, executing, monitoring and implementing service strategies while ensuring compliance to internal and regulatory policies and procedures
- ➢ Must have 2-3 years experience in the same field and capacity
- ➢ CPAs will have an advantage
- ➢ Preferably not more than 32 years old
- ➢ Preferably residents from Metro Manila, Parañaque, QC, Bulacan, Cebu & Iloilo

▪ FINANCIAL ANALYSTS
- ➢ Must be very good in oral and written communications
- ➢ Must have very good analyzing and research skills
- ➢ Experience in planning, budgeting & financial analysis is a plus
- ➢ **Fresh graduates are welcome to apply**

▪ PRODUCT MANAGERS
- ➢ Will be responsible for the development, enhancement and management of the bank's products to achieve profitability targets
- ➢ Must have at least 2 years experience in the same field & capacity
- ➢ Preferably not more than 32 years old

OTHER POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

▪ NEW ACCOUNTS CLERKS/ TELLERS/ ACCOUNTING STAFF
- ➢ Must have a business related degree
- ➢ Must not be more than 25 years old
- ➢ Must have very good communication skills
- ➢ Preferably residents from Divisoria, Pasig, Pasay, Baclaran, QC, Bulacan, Laguna, Davao and Cagayan De Oro
- ➢ Exposure to banking operations is an advantage
- ➢ **Chinese speaking** NAC & Teller candidates will have an advantage; **Fresh graduates are welcome to apply**

* The candidates for the above mentioned positions **MUST** be graduates of any business related courses.

▪ COLLECTOR/ REPOSSESORS
▪ CREDIT INVESTIGATOR APPRAISERS
- ➢ Preferably degree holders of any business related course
- ➢ Must have at least 1 year related experience in collection, credit investigation and appraisal
- ➢ Must have very good oral & written communication skills
- ➢ Must be residents from Pangasinan
- ➢ Must know how to drive a motor cycle or a car
- ➢ Preferably not more than 28 years old

▪ HR OFFICERS
- ➢ Must be well versed in all the facets of HR specially in employee & labor relations and benefits planning & administration
- ➢ Must have 3-5 years related experience in the same capacity
- ➢ Preferably graduates of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- ➢ Preferably not more than 32 years old

▪ PC-BASED PROGRAMMERS
- ➢ Must be well versed in any web and object oriented development tool
- ➢ Must have at least 2 years of progressive responsible experience in the PC-based system applications design, analysis, development and maintenance work with relevant exposure to banking operations
- ➢ Must be graduates of any IT related courses
- ➢ Preferably not more than 30 years old

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Other Key Performing tasks of the SCM include the safeguarding of company assets, effective execution of internal controls, maximizing utilization and administration of manpower and material resources under his jurisdiction.

Applicants should have:
- A Bachelor's degree in Accounting. CPA is a must. MBA units/degree an advantage.
- Male or Female, between 25-35 years old.
- At least three (3) years relevant experience in Credit and Collection on a managerial capacity, preferably from a multinational company. Exposure on beverage industry a definite advantage.
- Basic knowledge and exposure on Sales and Operations an advantage.
- Ability to handle and work with employees of different ranks; with good interpersonal and communication skills.
- Above average command of written and spoken English; good memo composition skills.
- Good computer skills with knowledge of MS Office Applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).
- Capable of working with minimum supervision and maintain composure under pressure.
- Willing to travel anywhere within Metro Manila and willing to work long hours.

Sales Office Manager(s)

Responsible for contributing to corporate growth and profitability by providing leadership and management that is related to sales office operations.

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Applicants should have:
- A Bachelor's degree from a Business course. CPA/Accounting grad an advantage.
- Basic knowledge/experience in Warehousing, Inventory, and Fleet Management.
- Ability to handle and work with employees of different ranks; with good interpersonal and communication skills.
- Above average command of written and spoken English; good memo composition skills.
- Good computer skills with knowledge of MS Office Applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).
- Capable of working with minimum supervision and maintain composure under pressure.
- Willing to be assigned anywhere within Metro Manila and willing to work long hours.

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A foreign assistance organization has an immediate need for a PROCUREMENT AGENT who will be one of the key persons responsible for the administration, timely completion, and prompt close-out of acquisition and assistance instruments managed by its different project offices. The successful candidate will be performing pre- and post-award actions such as collecting of data and materials for contract solicitations and grant applications; making recommendations for appropriate format of tables, charts, and statements of work within solicitations/applications; preparing notices, lists of solicitation requestors; facilitating solicitation and application clearances within the organization; receiving proposals and ensuring their security from unauthorized personnel; making arrangements for pre-proposal and post-award conferences, meetings, site visits; and, assisting the Acquisition Specialist in the conduct of briefings to technical evaluation teams, in drafting of acquisition/assistance instruments/negotiation memoranda, and with desk audits for closeouts. Minimum educational requirement is completion of a Bachelor's degree in fields like in accounting, finance, business or pre-law. At least three (3) years of progressively responsible experience in acquisition and assistance gained from an international or donor organizations highly preferred. Good knowledge of international and local business practices and detailed knowledge of local market pricing customs and practices are required. An excellent command of English (both written and oral) and good computer skills are essential.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan is offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé, **not later than January 14, 2005**, to:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

American Developmental Play Gym for Children

COACHES

We are hiring fun and sporty people who have a passion to work with young kids aged 1 to 8 years old to be based in **SINGAPORE**.

They must possess strong communication skills & a good command of spoken English. The candidate will implement the program incorporating beginning gymnastic, songs, dance and games.

Candidates should have a relevant degree preferably in child or physical education. Teaching experience in gymnastics, aerobics, arts, music, dance or child education is preferred. Training will be provided.

Interested parties may send their resumé to:
sun@mygym.com.sg and arlene@pesocard.com

(Please include a recent photo and height measurements). or visit our office at the address below.

Interviews for short listed applicants will be held in Manila and Singapore in mid Jan. 2005.
http:www.mygym.com.sg

Manila Address:
402 P. Guevarra St. Brgy. Sta. Lucia San Juan,
Metro Manila (near Home Cable)
Tel. No.: 727-1919; look for Arlene or Adrian

CALL CENTER FAST FACTS: True or False?

There are at least 60,000 high-paying call center jobs available.	[✓ T]	F
With 60,000 job openings, getting hired is a sure thing.	T	[✓ F]
You don't need to have great English communication skills to be hired.	T	[✓ F]
You don't need to know how to offer exceptional customer service to be shortlisted.	T	[✓ F]
You don't need to care about American culture and geography to land a call center job.	T	[✓ F]
You don't need to be knowledgeable in call center technologies to be accepted.	T	[✓ F]
You don't need the Call Center Academy to get a better chance of getting hired.	T	[✓ F]
Enrolling and training at the Call Center Academy will make you more qualified for any of the 60,000 jobs	[✓ T]	F

CALL CENTER ACADEMY

G/F PDAF Bldg., 407 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. (formerly Buendia), Makati City
Email: info@callcenteracademy.com.ph Tel. No.: 895-4298 Fax: 895-9944

Welcome to ICT Group.

In a global industry that has an estimated worth of $73 Billion, we see the challenge of offering more than just employment.

We see the opportunity to maximize the potential in every individual who joins our ranks.

With the growth of our workforce, we see progress. And every career that takes flight, we see the opportunity to change lives.

ICT Group.
Building the future.
One career at a time

ICT Group is in need of

Customer Service Representatives
(FOR FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL, SALES & GENERAL ACCOUNTS)

Qualifications:

- At least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field
- Excellent communication skills in conversational ENGLISH
- Active listening skills
- Strong interpersonal skills to work with the customers and with the team
- Applicants must be willing to work on shifting schedules

French and Spanish Speaking Representatives

- Excellent communication skills in conversational FRENCH/SPANISH AND ENGLISH

Technical Support Representatives

Qualifications

- Candidates must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field preferably graduates of an Engineering Degree (EE, ECE, ME, ChE, CoE) /Computer Science or any other IT Related Course
- Excellent communication skills in conversational English
- Experience in telecom and technical support a plus
- Experience and working knowledge in the use of MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Experience in handling technical issues related to hardware and software tools, a plus
- Active listening skills
- Strong interpersonal skills to work with the customers and with the team
- Applicants must be willing to work on shifting schedules
- FRESH GRADUATES/ENTRY-LEVEL applicants are encouraged to apply

ICT IS NOW HIRING PART-TIME CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

Visit the ICT Group Recruitment Center
14th Floor Union Bank Plaza, Onyx St. corner Sapphire St.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City Tel.: 632-857-8400

You may also send in your application via e-mail to
recruitingmanila@ictgroup.com

To learn more about ICT Group, visit the company website at
www.ictgroup.om

We'll put you on top of a BIG career opportunity.

Are you
..... a FRESH GRADUATE looking for a BIG BREAK
..... a STUDENT needing to fund a college degree
..... a SEASONED PROFESSIONAL in mid-career change,
Then let ASIA CALL CENTER LINK put you on board the BIGGEST CALL CENTERS in the country!

As the foremost RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND CONSULTANCY experts in the country we're setting our sights on aspiring call center professionals and we'll link you with prospective employers

So, if you're a college graduate or undergraduate
..... fluent in written and spoken English
..... computer literate
..... driven, motivated and eager to make it BIG in the CALL CENTER INDUSTRY

Send us your resume for immediate processing and we'll put you on TOP OF A BIG CAREER OPPORTUNITY!

ASIA *Call Center Link*
Level 16, Tower One, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel: 63•2• 848-6595 E-mail: asialink@asiapartners.net

A division of ASIA *Partnership Philippines, Inc.*
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Setting **GLOBAL** standards in **RECRUITMENT** and **TRAINING** for customer service professionals.

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200 ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Our client, one of the largest foreign banks in the Philippines, has appointed ASIA *Partnership Philippines* as their "outsourcing partner". We are currently hiring top-caliber **ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES** who will be working on their latest pilot program.

The Role:
- Identify and develop new prospects; strengthen and maintain contact with customers in existing database
- Creative in exploring new techniques in selling and utilizing available resources to expand client base
- Conduct individual and group sales presentations; negotiate with qualified corporate/individual entities

The Individual:
- University graduate from a leading academic institution with at least 1 year experience in corporate / retail selling
- Excellent communication, inter-personal and presentation skills with the ability to spot selling opportunities
- Presentable, assertive, driven and can thrive in a very competitive and results-driven environment

Interested candidates are requested to email their resumes to helen@asiapartners.net Walk-in applicants are also welcome.

ASIA *Outsourcing Solutions*
(a division of ASIA Partnership Philippines, Inc.)
cross-cultural recruitment/training/consulting
Level 16, Tower One, Ayala Triangle,
Ayala Avenue, Makati City
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SM

If you want your career to go places, join any of our branches and get ready to reach the top of the corporate ladder

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

female/male, not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4 year business course; with 2 years experience in site search for commercial spaces; with experience in market research and analysis and preparation of market study; must be in contact with a pool of credible brokers and shopping malls nationwide; willing to go on field assignments most of the time; computer literate and preferably able to drive

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. or send their comprehensive resumé with recent photo to:

SM Shoemart
SM Corporate Office
Bldg. D 1000 Bay Boulevard, SM Central Business Park
Bay City, Pasay City

Visit our Website : www.sm-shoemart.com
E-mail : Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com

(Please bring resumé, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS Number / SSS Employment History print out and photocopy and original copy of Transcript of Records and Diploma)

DANIEL O. MERCADO MEDICAL CENTER

THE ONLY TERTIARY (100 bed capacity) HOSPITAL
IN TANAUAN CITY, BATANGAS

IMMEDIATE JOB OPENING

STAFF NURSE/COMPANY NURSE
- Graduate of BS Nursing
- PRC Board Passer
- Male or Female
- 22 years old and above
- With or without experience

BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR & FACILITIES MANAGER
- Licensed Civil or Mechanical Engineer
- 30 years old and above

MIS MANAGER
- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- Preferably CPA
- With background in managing an Electronic Based Accounting System in a Hospital Operation
- With experience on full-cycle systems implementation
- With knowledge in MS-SQL Server Administration
- With Background on Systems and Methods Analysis

PHARMACIST
- Graduate of BS Pharmacy
- PRC Board Passer
- Male or Female
- 22 years old and above
- With or without experience

BIOMEDICAL TECHNICIAN
- Licensed Electronic Communication Engineer or Graduate of BS Industrial Instrumentation
- Preferably with experience in handling medical equipment
- Male
- 22 years old and above

MARKETING OFFICER
- Must be a degree holder, preferably in Sales, Marketing or Business administration
- At least with two years experience preferably in medical field
- Male or Female
- 25 years old and above
- Above average oral and written communication skills

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST
- Graduate of BS Radiologic Technologist or Associate in X-ray Technology
- PRC Board Passer
- Male
- At least 22 years old above

ATTRACTIVE COMPENSATION PACKAGE AWAITS SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS. INTERESTED APPLICANTS MUST BE BASED IN CALABARZON AND/OR WILLING TO RELOCATE IN TANAUAN CITY. KINDLY FAX YOUR RESUMÉ AT TEL. NO. 043-7780960 OR E-MAIL AT dmmc@pldtdsl.net OR SEND TO NO. 1 PRES. LAUREL HIGHWAY, TANAUAN CITY, BATANGAS. YOU MAY ALSO CONTACT MS. GRACE SANIANO AT TEL. NOS. 043-4050597 (DIRECT LINE) OR 043-7781810, 043-4051000 LOCAL 108.

A young, dynamic and fast rising company in the fields of dermatology and cosmetic products is in need of competent, aggressive, energetic and self-motivated individuals to occupy the following positions:

SENIOR PRODUCT MANAGER

- ✓ Bachelor degree in Business Administration/Marketing/BS Biology
- ✓ With a minimum work experience of three (3) years in cosmetic field as Marketing Manager
- ✓ With an MBA degree an advantage

MARKETING ASSISTANT

- ✓ Graduate of Business/Marketing courses
- ✓ Graduated at the top of his/her class
- ✓ Excellent verbal and written communication skills

CLINICAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST

(Primary responsibility is to train MD's/doctors on the use of various medical devices/equipments)

- ✓ Preferably a graduate of Nursing/BS Biology
- ✓ Female
- ✓ Work experience not necessary, fresh graduates are encouraged to apply
- ✓ Excellent verbal and written communication skills

Please send your resumé with 2x2 picture to the following address:

SPECTRUMED INC.
Unit 1504-East Tower, Phil. Stock Exchange Center,
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

BE PART OF A FAST GROWING DESIGN STUDIO

SENIOR GRAPHIC ARTIST

2 years experience in advertising • male, 24-28 • with leadership qualities • assertive • driven • good in conceptualization • mac based

VISUALIZER

• knowledgeable in photoshop & illustrator • willing to work long hours • assertive • driven • male, 21-23 • open to fresh graduates • mac based

COPY WRITER

• with advertising background • male or female, 22-25 • with leadership qualities • good in conceptualization • excellent writing skills

E-mail resumé to pageshophr@yahoo.com
or call 7274784 and look for Bianca

A leading **HEALTHCARD CONSULTANCY** Company is in need of the ff:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST. / SECRETARY
- Preferably graduate of Psychology or Accounting
- With 3-5 years experience in related field
- Single, not more than 30 years old
- With good oral & written communication skills
- Can work independently & with decision making skills
- Flexible, reliable, analytical and a team player

CUSTOMER SERVICE STAFF
- Graduate of any course
- Single, not more than 25 years old, with pleasing personality
- Preferably with medical background / training

FAMILY DRIVER
- Not more than 40 years old
- With NBI clearance

Apply or submit your complete resumé at Unit 801 The Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City or email at hgasia@pacific.net.ph

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global stride

Globalstride is a premier outsourced customer service solutions provider. We provide the best in class CRM solutions to global companies at a lower cost through our offshore customer contact centers. Through a series of operational and technology partnerships with leading companies worldwide, GLOBALSTRIDE is uniquely positioned to handle customer service needs for a full range of contact channels, technologies, and languages.

CUSTOMER CARE SPECIALISTS

Job Responsibilities:
- Offer product & services through the telephone & other specified means of communication to a target list of customers in behalf of the product/services being offered.
- Provide necessary information about the product & services.
- Document all pertinent customer data using client prescribed form
- Meet the productivity requirements of clients on qualified calls.

Job Requirements:
- Bachelor's degree holders of any 4-year course with excellent interpersonal and communication skills particularly using American grammar, diction, intonation, inflection, intonation and articulation.
- Previous experience in customer relation, management, sales or marketing is an advantage.
- Ability to speak any foreign language (Spanish, Chinese, French, etc.) is a plus.

PROGRAM MANAGERS

Job Responsibilities:
- Responsible in planning, implementing and directing business proposals and initiatives of the company

Job Requirements:
- Must have extensive experience in project and client management acquired in customer service or telesales.
- With at least 2 to 3 years of managerial or supervisory experience in project/account management and must have established analytical ability, good interpersonal skills and exceptional verbal and written communication
- MBA degree from AIM/ADMU/UP is an advantage.
- Preferably 25-35 years of age with acquired experience in telesales management

SENIOR/SALES TRAINERS

Job Responsibilities:
- Design and conduct training programs on Sales and Customer Service and facilitate sales coaching sessions.
- Conduct regular on-floor Sales and Customer Service audit or call monitoring sessions with QA to capture lapses in sales techniques, pitch, as well as inculcate sales & customer service mindset/orientation.
- Train Trainers, Coaches, and Team Leaders on Sales and Customer Service.
- Revisit/audit programs and agents' skills levels and develop appropriate interventions.

Job Requirements:
- Must be degree holders preferably related to Sales and Marketing or Communications and Languages disciplines
- Must have established track record in Sales or Customer Service training gained from at least 3 years working experience in a call center or in a service oriented environment
- Exceptional communication skills, developed service orientation, strong people skills and proficiency in conducting training needs assessments and measurements are requisites
- Passion for Sales and Customer Service training and established course design and facilitation skills
- Experienced in developing skills-build up strategies for individuals or groups; good coaching skills
- Must be team-player, self-starter, organized and analytic

CREDIT AND COLLECTIONS OFFICER

Job Responsibilities:
- Maintain Accounts Receivable, general and subsidiary records
- Prepare aging and other analyses for management
- Establish and maintain credit evaluation system
- Ensure adherence to credit and collection policies
- Prepare and transmit Statement of Accounts to clients and coordinate with Internal Client Services for follow-up

Job Requirements:
- Accounting or Business Graduate
- At least 5 years experience, last 2 in supervisory capacity, in credit and collection, internal or external audit
- Expected to be detail-oriented and pro-active with above average communication skills (written and oral)
- Experience in both manual and automated financial systems is a plus

QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICERS

Job Responsibilities:
- Conduct process reviews and compliance audit based on specified key controls
- Analyze statistical data for service standards and process measurements for corrective actions
- Monitor calls to ensure conformity with customer requirements and coordinate with other departments to manage customer issues

Job Requirements:
- Candidates should be degree holders with excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Must have keen eye for detail, analytical and with strong inclination in dealing with processes
- Candidates should have good sense of judgment, systematic and team oriented.
- Good probing skills and QA mindset have an advantage

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST / SUPERVISOR

Job Responsibilities:
- Organize and ensure efficiency of internal and external communication systems

Job Requirements:
- Graduate of preferably any Behavioral Science, Organizational Communications and Advertising courses
- At least 2-years significant work-related experience in handling organizational communications preferably in a manufacturing set-up with well-developed communication skills, both oral and written
- Demonstrated capability in ensuring workplace harmony through effective management of internal and external communications, including community relations and newsletter writing
- Well-founded interpersonal skills and recognized ability to work with all levels of the organization.
- Willing to be part of a young, vibrant and schedule-shifting environment

Please visit us at:
29th Floor IBM Plaza Building, Eastwood City, Cyberpark Libis, Quezon City. You can also call or email us at jobs@globalstride.com or visit our website at www.globalstride.com Telephone No. 911-8866 / Fax. 911-8854

SHINKAWA LTD.

Philippine Representative Office

Manufacturer of Semiconductor Equipment

Is in urgent need of:

ONE (1) SERVICE ENGINEERS

- ○ male, 25 to 28 years old
- ○ graduate of Electrical/Electronics Engineering course
- ○ preferably with experience in diebond/wirebond semiconductor machines
- ○ good oral and written communication skills
- ○ with good moral character
- ○ preferably residing in Baguio City
- ○ to be assigned in Baguio City

Please send resumé at:
Unit 304 The Sycamore Building
Alabang-Zapote Road
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
or
email at: a-castano@shinkawa.com.ph

(Deadline for submission of application and comprehensive resumé is on Friday, January 14, 2005)

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Qualifications
- Female, below 35 years old
- Graduate of any Engineering course except ECE & Computer Engineering
- Proficient in MS Office Applications

Please apply personally from 8am – 12nn on January 10, 2005. Or you can Mail or Email your resumé with colored photo & transcript of record to hrd@federalfasteners.com

For Office Sales Engineers: at 508 Makisig St., Sta. Mesa, Manila. Tel. No. 716-0000 (Karen)

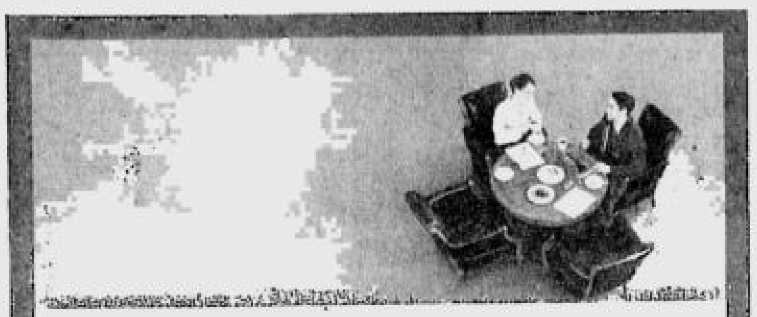
For QA and Production Engineers: at Villa Cesani Susano Road Camarin Caloocan City. Tel. No. 962-1930 (Mareth)

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

for hospital in Cavite

- male / female
- B.S.R.T. graduate
- Good Scholastic Record

APPLY: RESPICARE ENTERPRISES
Monday to Friday 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. / 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Room 402 Rizalina II Annex Bldg.
1677 Quezon Avenue near corner EDSA, Quezon City
BRING: 2 x 2 picture, Orig. & Xerox of Transcript of Record, Diploma, NBI Clearance, Certificate of Good Moral Character, SSS & TIN



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The Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila wants to hire:

Front Office

Front Office Manager • Assistant Managers • Front Desk Supervisors • Concierge • Guest Sevices Officers

Sales and Marketing

Sales (Account) Manager • Meetings (Account) Manager - preferably Chinese Speaking • Business Development Manager

Finance

Finance Manager • General Cashier • Finance Assistant • Receiving Staff

Engineering

Operations Engineer • Shift Engineer • Electrician • Plant Attendant/Mechanic • STP Operator • Plumber • AV Technician • Telephone Technician • Painter • Carpenter • Laundry & Kitchen Mechanic • Mason

Food and Beverage

F&B Promotions Manager • Restaurant Manager • Captain Waiter • Executive Assistant • Receptionist • Waiters

Kitchen

Sous Chef • Pastry Chef • Chef Gardemanger • Chief Butcher • Assistant Pastry Chef • Chef de Partie • Cafeteria Supervisor •Baker • Pastryman • Butcher • Kitchen Artist • Commis I • Kitchen Attendant

Public Relations & Marketing Communications

Marketing Communications Officer • Graphic Artist

Reservations

Reservations Manager • Reservations Officers

Housekeeping

Assistant Executive Housekeeper

Human Resources

Executive & HR Assistant / Trainer

Protective Services

Chief of Security

Come and see us in your best business attire!

Human Resources Office, Lower Basement
Holiday Inn Galleria Manila (pre-opening office)
One ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Tuesdays through Fridays
10:00AM - 5:00PM

THEN LET'S MEET!

CROWNE PLAZA
GALLERIA MANILA
THE PLACE TO MEET.

tel. (63-2) 633-7222

REGENT TRAVEL CORPORATION is in need of applicants for the following positions for immediate employment:

TOURS MANAGER

- Male / female
- With extensive background in inbound / outbound tours operation of a travel agency
- At least 30 years old but not more than 40
- Excellent communication, planning skills
- Salary negotiable

TOURS ASSISTANT

- Male / female
- Between 23 to 30 years of age
- College graduate
- With travel related work experience
- Preferably with ticketing work experience
- Good oral and written communications skills
- Computer literate

RESERVATIONS & TICKETING OFFICER

- Male or female, not over 35 years old
- Work experience in reservations and ticketing for 2 years
- Preferably with background in marine traffic ticketing
- With demonstrated knowledge of Abacus and/or Amadeus CRS

Interested applicants may send their Resumé with recent 2x2 picture to:

REGENT TRAVEL CORPORATION
Regent Bldg., 1415 Gen. Luna Street
Ermita, Manila
Attn: The Personnel Officer
or
e-mail to regent@pldtdsl.net

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

I. ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT (for Lipa, Batangas)

- BS Accountancy graduate
- Knowledgeable in General Accounting procedures
- Experience in Bookkeeping & Inventory Management, an advantage
- Proficient in MS Office Applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)

2. GROCERY PERSONNEL (for Lipa, Batangas)

- At least college level or a 2-year course graduate
- Experience in retail store operation, an advantage
- Knowledgeable in computer software (POS, Word & Excel)

3. ADMINISTRATIVE / PERSONNEL ASSISTANT (for Lipa, Batangas OR Quezon City)

- College graduate
- Experience in Administrative and/or Personnel work, an advantage
- Knowledgeable in computer software (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)

Please SEND your comprehensive resume with latest colored photo, contact number and address indicating salary desired and position applied for to:

The Personnel Department
Shelter Systems Development Corporation
12 Mother Ignacia Avenue, Quezon City 1103

Applicants making it on our short list will be called for an interview

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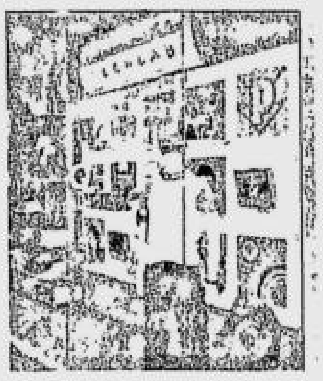

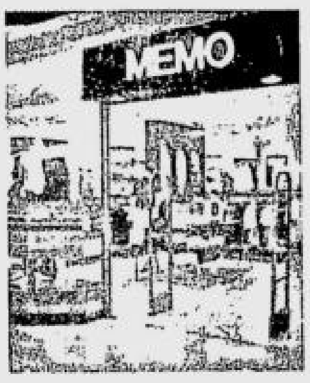

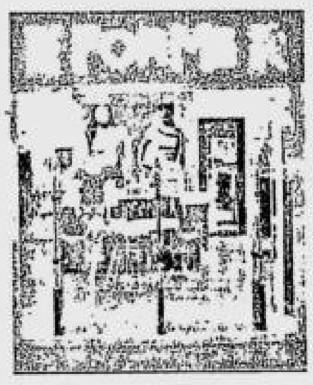

GOLDEN ABC, INC.

Join the fun and dynamism of the team behind Penshoppe, Oxygen, Memo and ForMe. If you have what it takes, join us.

PRODUCT MANAGERS: PM

Assists the Merchandise Manager in his/her sourcing functions by the efficient implementation of merchandise strategies and product mix, interpreting fashion trends suitable to the target market.

- Graduates of Marketing, Business Management, Economics or any Retail Merchandising course
- Experience in garment merchandising and retailing in department store/boutique specialty setting
- Excellent analytical and communication skills
- Organized and highly adaptable to fast-paced environment and multiple projects
- Extensive network-base of foreign and local supplier is a plus
- Job requires frequent travel

FASHION/GRAPHIC DESIGNERS: DSN

Responsible for the conceptualization and design of various merchandise. He/She aims to develop thorough knowledge of the market, and keeps abreast with fashion trends.

- Graduates of Advertising, Industrial Design, Fashion Design, Clothing Technology, and other design-related courses
- Must be friendly and personable
- Must have a strong fashion sense and familiarity with colors and fabrics
- Highly creative, inspired and ingenious with an extensive know-how of the latest trends
- Adept with design software
- Able to work independently while handling multiple projects

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICER: FMO

Responsible for seeing through the proper condition and maintenance of the building and its equipments which include electrical and safety; security; stockroom safekeeping.

- Graduates of BS Electrical Engineering or BS Mechanical Engineering
- Passed the board exam and has valid professional license
- At least 3 years of actual experience in building maintenance
- Male, between 30 to 35 years old
- Can work with minimum supervision and willing to render long hours of work
- Computer literate (knowledge of Auto-CAD is a plus)
- Knowledgeable in fire prevention, safety practices, preventive maintenance, and construction plans
- Good people-handling skills and can relate well with colleagues

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES: ES

Responsible for daily administrative support to the Executives. The position requires setting up appointments and meetings, which involves coordination with various institutions. She will assist in the preparation of business proposals/ reports/ contracts.

- Graduates of Nursing, Computer Science, Information Technology, Business courses
- 3 years related experience in high-level office
- Female, between 24 to 35 years old
- Highly personable with excellent oral and written communication skills
- Excellent on basic office procedures and with good initiative
- Ability to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and creative environment
- Ability to work independently
- Trustworthy, responsible, and detail oriented

STORE SALES MANAGERS: SSM

(For Sucat Parañaque, Caloocan, Taguig, Alabang, Vigan, Dasmariñas Cavite, Bukidnon, Ormoc, Mactan Cebu, Davao)

Responsible for the over-all sales supervision of the store. Entry-level functional supervisor to be trained in the skillful use of multiple management functions and its application.

- Graduates of Management, Marketing, Economics or any related courses
- Male or Female, between 23 to 30 years old
- Minimum of 2 years supervisory experience preferably in retail and marketing consumer products
- Excellent communication, interpersonal, relationship-building and conflict-resolution skills
- Proven skills in managing and developing people
- Strong organizational, communication and time management skills

TRAINING SPECIALIST: TS

Responsible for the training needs analyses and assessments for the Sales Division. The position requires implementation and facilitation of technical, operational and/or specialty training events and program; consultation and collaboration with individuals and departments on complex training issues; assessment of training needs and objectives and designing and developing responsive training programs and initiatives; design and development of comprehensive training plans, curriculum and aids.

- Graduate of HRM or any business related courses
- Male or Female, 23-28 years old
- At least 2 years experience in sales and retail training
- Knowledge and understanding of adult learning principles and a wide range of training methods, techniques and formats
- Teaching and facilitation skills
- Advanced verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to interpret and assess training and development needs and to develop appropriate and creative responses
- Ability to design, develop, implement and evaluate training plans, curricula and methodology

QUALITY CONTROL INSPECTOR: QCI

Do quality inspection on products such as garments, innerware, personal care and accessories and make sure that QC standards are implemented.

- Monitor and keep track on daily inventory of damaged items inside the warehouse
- Not more than 30 years old
- Male or female, preferably single
- College graduate
- Preferably with background on garments and cosmetics

ELECTRICIAN: ELC

Responsible for the installation of electrical projects and the maintenance of electrical devices and other equipments. Secondary duty is to attend to any electrical related installations and problems in the boutiques and department store outlets.

- Male, 21 - 30 years old
- Practical Electricity or Electrical Technology graduate
- Familiar with the electrical component of generators, transformers, air conditioning unit and neon lights
- Knowledgeable in Motor Control Circuit
- At least 3-years experience in actual electrical installations in buildings
- Willing to render overtime
- Dependable and can work with minimum supervision

Qualified candidates may send resumès with recent 2x2 colored picture and copy of Transcript of Records before January 28, 2005 to:

THE HRD

1155 EDSA Balintawak
Quezon City, Philippines
1106

Or email to:
hrd@penshoppe.com

(application letter and resumè should be in MSword format with embedded 2x2 ID picture)

Rapu Rapu Processing Inc (RRPI)

Polymetallic Mining Project

RRPI are presently developing a Polymetallic Mining and Processing Project on Rapu Rapu Island and will require a skilled workforce to perform various maintenance functions on its associated Process Plant and 10MW PowerStation.

As only single status accommodation is available applicants must be prepared to live on site single status.
Accommodation and messing is provided free of charge onsite.

The following skilled maintenance personnel are invited to submit their CV's as expressions of interest in becoming part of the maintenance crew for this new mining project:

1. **Mechanical Fitter / Welder Tradesmen.**
2. **Electrical / Instrumentation Tradesmen.**
3. **PowerStation Mechanical Tradesmen.**
4. **Mobile Crane Operator / Rigger.**
5. **Tradesmen Assistant.**

Requirements:

- Experienced with maintenance of Mining / Processing or Heavy Industrial plant & equipment.
- A positive self motivated attitude and desire to be a team member.
- Total commitment to comply with safe working procedures.

Each applicants CV shall include the following;

- A recent passport size photo.
- Complete personal details including contact telephone number.
- Previous work experience and history.
- Up to date references with relevant referees current contact details.

Interested personnel are to submit their applications as 'expressions of interest', before 31st January 2005 to;

The Manager – Engineering
Rapu Rapu Processing, Inc.
Unit 21, Legaspi Suites,
178 Salcedo Street,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

Location: Rapu Rapu (via Legaspi City) is a poly-metallic mine which is currently under construction with metal production commencing mid 2005. Rapu Rapu offers first class facilities, excellent remuneration conditions and a roster that gives you good lifestyle balance.

Rapu Rapu Minerals Inc is seeking suitably qualified and experienced persons for the following site based positions;

SENIOR SURVEYOR

- Reporting initially to the Chief Surveyor, responsible for safely leading the Mine Survey team, consisting of two mine surveyors, several survey assistants and clerks. This position will work closely with the mining contractor requiring communication skills to be excellent.
- Possess experience and skills required to implement survey control for conventional open pit mining techniques. Main tasks include pit design set out, ore markups, toe/batter checks, grade control drilling pickup and set out, stockpile volumes, and end of month final excavated volume. Producing accurate plans as requested in a timely manner.
- Responsible for developing systems and procedures for all activities undertaken by the Survey Department, including supervision and training Survey personnel. A high regard for safety is essential.
- Be degree qualified, and have sound experience with mining software.

MINE SURVEYORS

- Reporting to the Senior Surveyor, responsible for undertaking the day to day survey tasks as required to operate the open pit mine.
- Experience in open pit mining although not necessary will be highly regarded. Main tasks include pit design set out, ore markups, toe/batter checks, grade control drilling pickup and set out, stockpile volumes, and end of month final excavated volume. Candidates must be physically fit and willing to work in a challenging environment.
- Must be team player and willing to learn as well as pass on knowledge to less experienced members of the team.
- Be degree qualified, and have had some exposure to mining software packages.

To be the successful applicant for any of these positions you will have a high level of personal integrity, be able to work in a remote location and in a team environment, have proper regard for Safety and Environment and be enthusiastic and dedicated. If that sounds like you and you want a prestigious position with an emerging mining company, please apply in writing before 31st January 2005, to:

The Commercial Manager - Rapu Rapu Project
Suite 21, Legaspi Suites
178 Salcedo St.,
Makati City, Philippines 1229

FUJITSU

FUJITSU COMPUTER PRODUCTS CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

The successful candidate will be responsible for two or three functions involving either recruitment, training, employee relations, salary and benefits administration, payroll and documentation. She should be a college graduate. Between 28 and 38, she must have more than 5 years relevant experience as Human Resources Manager in a labor-intensive medium to large-sized corporation. Candidates should have familiarity with labor laws and regulations, and should display professionalism, resourcefulness, initiative, fairness and stick-to-itiveness. The hired candidate will report directly to the Vice President, HR and General Affairs.

SECURITY MANAGER

The successful candidate will be responsible for security of the plant including liaison with external parties, intelligence units and government agencies, investigation, supervision of buildings in-charge and security personnel, and other security functions. He should be a college graduate. Between 30 and 40, he must have more than 5 years relevant experience as a Security Manager in a labor-intensive medium to large-sized corporation. Candidates should have both business orientation and security management capability. The hired candidate will report directly to the Vice President, HR and General Affairs.

ENGINEERING GRADUATES BATCH 2004

- Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics and Communications, Chemical, Computer and Industrial Engineering graduates (with or without license).
- Should possess leadership qualities, are team-players and hardworking
- Must be willing to work on shifts
- Male or Female, not more than 23 years of age

ASSISTANTS

- Graduate of any business, communication, or psychology course
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Good analytical ability
- Pleasing personality
- Proficient in MS office applications
- Female, not more than 24 years of age

COMPANY NURSE

- Will be responsible for the curative, palliative, preventive, rehabilitative and administrative aspects of employees' health care
- Graduate of BS Nursing, licensed
- Must be service-oriented and willing to work on shifts
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Female, age limit is 27

OFFICE CLERKS

- Graduate of any 2-year computer or business course or undergraduate with 2 years in college
- Preferably with experience in performing clerical functions
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Female, not more than 22 years of age

TECHNICIANS

- Graduate of Electromechanical, Electrical or Electronics, Instrumentation Technology course
- Without experience or if with experience 6 months or less
- With knowledge in machine maintenance and troubleshooting
- Male, ages 18-24

SGS Certificate No. Q8372 UKAS QUALITY MANAGEMENT

ISO 14001 SGS Certificate No. US2002/2860

Fujitsu Computer Products is a leading manufacturer of hard disk drives and magneto-resistive heads. After eight years of commercial operations, we now have 6,583 employees. We were inducted into PEZA's Top Employer Hall of Fame by being the Top Employer for the years 1997 to 1999. To know more about the company, you can visit us at www.ph.fujitsu.com/fcpp. Successful candidates will be based in Canlubang, Laguna. Shuttle buses to and from the site are available for Metro Manila residents. Please send your resumes to: The Vice President, HR & General Affairs Department, Fujitsu Computer Products Corporation of the Philippines, SEPZ, Carmelray Industrial Park, Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna, or email to: recruit@fcpp.fujitsu.com or you may also apply personally in business attire, Mondays to Fridays at 9 AM.

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY

VISAYAN FORUM FOUNDATION, INC.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The *Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc.*, a Manila-based non government organization (with regional offices in Batangas, Bacolod, Davao and Matnog), that works for the protection and development of marginalized migrants especially domestic workers, trafficked women and children is urgently in need of the following:

(1) REGIONAL COORDINATOR (Davao)

Qualifications:

- College graduate
- Has at least 5 years experience in NGO developmental work, specializing in children's rights, child labor or women's welfare
- Has held a supervisorial/managerial position in the past jobs
- Has the ability to lead and work with a team
- Good in oral and written communications
- Good in project reporting and proposal writing
- Computer literate
- Good interpersonal relations, especially with children

(2) LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS (Davao)

Qualifications:

- Graduate of social work
- Experience in NGO developmental work, specializing in children's rights, child labor or women's welfare is an advantage
- Extensive experience in case management and handling of children in distress
- Has the ability to work with a team
- Good in oral and written communications
- Computer literate
- Good interpersonal relations, especially with children
- Willing to work stay-in

(1) PUBLICATIONS OFFICER (to be based in Manila)

Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree, preferably in Mass Communications, Creative Writing or other Social Sciences courses
- With initial experience in managing publications such as newsletters, periodicals, journals, etc.
- Preferably with extensive experiences in developmental work, especially with children's and women issues
- Must be computer literate and proficient in Pagemaker or other layouting softwares
- Website design skill is an advantage
- International networking and advocacy background will be highly preferred
- Able to meet deadlines and willing to travel in regional in regional project areas
- Team-worker and can perform multiple tasks with minimum supervision
- Sensitive to the best interest of exploited women and children

Interested applicants may apply personally and bring with them their application letter, together with comprehensive resumé and other credentials. They may also fax, mail, or e-mail their application directly to the:

The Executive Order
Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc.
#2873 Lamayan Street, Sta. Ana, Manila
Tel. Nos.: (02) 562-7821; 562-7810
Telefax: (02) 563-4514
E-mails: admin@visayanforum.org
visforum@pldtdsl.net

Note: Only qualified applicants would be notified. Deadline of submission of application is on or before January 15, 2005.

UPLIFT Philippines Inc. *Urban Program for Livelihood Finance and Training*

UPLiFT is a microfinance NGO that was started 11 years ago by a French Organization. Every year, we provide 20,000 Loans and Savings products to poor households of the depressed areas of Metro Manila.

We are currently looking for highly qualified persons to join our dynamic team.

1 Area Manager (AM)

1- In-charge of Planning and Strategizing for operations of the microfinance program providing loans, savings and training to urban poor of Quezon City
2- Ensure that all members of his/her team are properly monitored, trained and managed to implement the strategy and methodology of the organization.
3- Participate in the Management Committee of his/her unit, and in most of the key decision-making.
4- Ensure good relation with other program heads, and to the central UPLiFT management for proper implementation of micro finance method.
5- Define objectives, monitor results, and identify appropriate resources needed to reach them.
6- Report directly to the Managing Director.
7- Prepare monthly report on performance parameters with necessary analysis.

Position Profile

1- College graduate with strong background in microfinance.
2- Exceptional Analytical skills
3- Ability to work and handle relationship with foreigners
4- Autonomous, dynamic, flexible, ready for challenges in a complex environment.
5- Committed to work for an NGO and provide services to the poorest families.
6- Exceptional verbal and written English
7- Well versed in preparation and presentation of operational reports.

1 Internal Audit Manager (IAM)

1- Plan and set the overall direction and the process of implementation of the internal audit program
2- Ensure that all members of his/her team are properly monitored, trained and managed to implement the strategy and methodology of the organization.
3- Participate in the Management Committee of the organization, and in most of the key decision-making.
4- Ensure good relation with other program heads, and to the central UPLiFT management for proper implementation of micro finance method.
5- Define objectives, and identify appropriate resources needed to reach them.
6- Report directly to the Managing Director.

Position Profile

1- A CPA, preferably with 5 years experience in micro enterprise
2- Autonomous, dynamic, flexible, ready for challenges in a complex environment.
3- Computer literate, preferably with experience in audit of information systems
4- Exceptional Analytical skills
5- Ability to work and handle relationship with foreigners
6- Exceptional verbal and written English
7- Well versed in preparation and presentation of audit reports.
8- Committed to work for an NGO and provide services to the poorest families.

2 Internal Auditors (IA) for Manila-Caloocan

1- Ensure compliance of everyone to an efficient internal audit control procedures
2- Ensure effectiveness in evaluating overall audit results, weighing the relevancy, accuracy and perspective of conclusions against the audit evidence of the whole organization.

Position Profile

1- Preferably a CPA with 3 years experience in micro enterprise
2- Autonomous, dynamic, flexible, ready for challenge in a complex environment.
3- Computer literate, preferably with experience in audit of information systems
4- Proficiency in oral and written English
5- Committed to work for an NGO and provide services to the poorest families.
6- Willing to do field work.
7- Competence in report writing.

If you meet the above requirements, please send your resume and application letter to:

rj.lescano@uplift.org.ph
or to: 3rd Flr., APN Bldg.,
172 A. Mabini St., Maypajo, Caloocan City

Location: Rapu Rapu (via Legaspi City) is a poly-metallic mine which is currently under construction with metal production commencing mid 2005. Rapu Rapu offers first class facilities, excellent remuneration conditions and a roster that gives you good lifestyle balance.

Rapu Rapu Processing Inc is seeking suitably qualified and experienced persons for the following senior site based positions;

HUMAN RESOURCES SUPERINTENDENT

- Responsible for site HR activities including recruitment and payroll administration.
- A degree in Human Resources or Business or similar qualification and good computer skills are preferred, together with several years experience in mining, construction or manufacturing industry, and good knowledge of labour laws.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

- Responsible for site Accounting activities in accordance with appropriate and approved accounting policies and procedures, and
- Ensuring the integrity of financial computer systems and records, and providing financial reporting and advice to a wide range of parties including site managers, corporate offices (Manila and Australia), and external organisations.
- A degree in Accounting or similar, together with superior computing skills are essential, whilst several years experience in mining, construction or manufacturing is preferred.

SAFETY SUPERINTENDENT

- Responsible for establishing and maintaining safety policies and procedures, establishing standards and controls to identify and eliminate safety & health hazards, and assisting in the development of appropriate training related to safe working procedures and accident and incident investigations.
- Experience as a Safety practitioner at a senior level in an industrial workplace is necessary along with high level communication and computer skills.

To be the successful applicant for any of these positions you will have a high level of personal integrity, be able to work in a remote location and in a team environment, have proper regard for Safety and Environment and be enthusiastic and dedicated. If that sounds like you and you want a prestigious position with an emerging mining company, please apply in writing before 31st January 2005, to:

The Commercial Manager - Rapu Rapu Project
Suite 21, Legaspi Suites
178 Salcedo St.,
Makati City, Philippines 1229

Rapu Rapu Processing Inc. is the operator of a gold/copper/silver/zinc ore processing facility currently under construction on the island of Rapu Rapu via Legaspi in Albay Province. The gold phase of the project is due for commissioning in May 2005 with the base metals phase in August 2005.

This exciting new project is seeking people experienced in all facets of ore processing. A number of positions are available.

Shift Supervisors – Ore Processing

These positions will be responsible for the operation of the processing plants on shift. Reporting to the Plant Production Superintendent they will be operating the plant to designated parameters and achieving target results while operating in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

Applicants should have experience in the operation of mineral processing circuits and equipment, supervisory experience and be used to working shift rosters.

Applicants with experience in crushing, milling, CIL and base metals flotation are particularly sought.

Process Operators – Ore Processing

These positions will be responsible for the operation of designated sections of the processing plants on shift. Reporting to the Shift Supervisors they will be operating their sections to designated parameters and achieving target results while operating in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

Applicants should have experience in the operation of mineral processing equipment and circuits with those with experience in crushing, milling, CIL and base metals flotation particularly sought.

Applications must be prepared to work in a team environment in a remote location, be enthusiastic and hard working and in good health, Applications should be addressed to:

The Manager – Metallurgy
Rapu-Rapu Processing, Inc.
Suite 21,Legaspi Suites
178 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village
Makati City 1229

The Philippine subsidiary of a UK-based Respiratory Care and Anaesthesia devices company is looking for the following professional staff:

AREA SALES REPRESENTATIVES
ACCOUNTING CLERK/SECRETARY
PHARMACIST

Applicants should have relevant professional and work experience for the positions being applied for.

Curriculum Vitaé and other pertinent documents may be sent by e-mail to **belintersurg@pacific.net.ph** or **intersurg_mktg@pacific.net.ph** Applications may be posted to:

P.O. Box No. 149
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
GF Atrium Bldg., Makati Avenue, Makati City

WANTED
MARKETING ASSISTANT
For our Duck Farm Company

We're a dynamic and aggressive group who values our teams' advancement both in career and personal development
We require a professional of the highest caliber who will share our corporate philosophy of exceeding our customers increasing expectations

Full time positions available with good compensation and benefits such as SSS, Pag-ibig, Medicare and Bonuses

The requirements of the candidate will be the following:

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College degree in Business studies/Administration/Management, Sales & Marketing, Mass Communications, Agriculture or equivalent.
- Required language(s): English, Filipino
- Female, not more than 25 years old
- Must have at least 1 year work experience in a marketing position
- Must be flexible, hardworking, aggressive and a team player
- With excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City

Please send or bring your bio-data with 2"x2" ID picture to:

Michael J. Guillermo
MJG Holdings, Inc.
OKPhil Building, 1301 Estrada St. cor. Osmeña Highway
Manila, Philippines
Or send via e-mail to: mjg_holdings@yahoo.com

NISSAN NORTH EDSA BALINTAWAK

BE PART OF A WINNING TEAM!

2003 BEST DEALER IN SERVICE
2003 BEST IN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

WE NEED:

SALES PROFESSIONALS
GROUP SALES SUPERVISOR

- Male or Female, 21-28 years old
- With dynamic character, strong & pleasing personality; College Graduate
- Chinese speaking is an advantage
- With good oral & written communication skills preferably with selling experience
- Must know how to drive

Qualified applicants will receive competitive salary plus unlimited commission

Apply in person with resumé & 2x2 photo, Mon.-Fri. at:

1174 EDSA, BALINTAWAK, Q.C.
Tel. # 330-5331 Look for Ms. Fema
email : femapadrones@yahoo.com

ZTE中兴 **ZTE Corporation** is one of the leading telecommunication solution and products suppliers based on China specializing in providing customized network solutions to telecom carriers worldwide. ZTE's over 15,000 employees are working in more than 50 countries and regions in Asia, America, Africa and Europe. In coping with our expansion in local market, we have vacancies for following position:

3 Account Managers

Responsibilities

- Set up and maintain good long-term relationship and corporation with customers.
- Collect customer requirements and feedback on market information.
- Ensure establishment of the brand along with expanding telecom market.
- Coordinate with technical team and other colleagues to meet the company's targets.

Requirements

- Bachelor's Degree or above major in Telecommunications or related.
- Familiar with Telecommunication products and related technologies.
- Minimum of 3 years sales experience in famous telecommunication company.
- Able to work independently or with teamwork preferably with "CAN DO" attitude
- Preferably already established relationship network within the system suppliers and operators;
- Excellent verbal and written English.
- Computer literate in commonly used office software and Internet

3 Technical Support Engineers

Responsibilities

- Technically educate and coach distributors, system-suppliers and end-users in relation to the company's products both during customer visits and in seminars arranged at a regular basis.
- Support the account manager with technical information in relation to performance, installation, operation and maintenance.
- Work together with the sales engineers and the manufacturing in order to provide the customer with full satisfaction all the way through the installation-, operation- and after-sales phases.
- Provide service, which meets, or even better exceeds customer's expectations.
- Collect and summarize Technical Information about the markets in the region.

Requirements;

- Bachelor's degree or above in Telecommunication and/ or RF- engineering.
- Extensive technical knowledge from Telecom systems. Should have the theoretical as well as practical knowledge about one or more of the following systems: transmission, Datacom, GSM-, CDMA and W-CDMA.
- Extensive experience from providing technical support to the telecom industries
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Ability to work independently and pro-actively
- Strong problem solving skills is an asset
- Good presentation skills .
- Experience in an international firm is preferred

4 Maintenance Engineers

Responsibilities

- Responsible for monitoring hardware installation on site according to installation procedure
- Able to arrange technical service to customers.
- Debugging, Commissioning, Operating and Maintenances of wireless system and datacom products
- Perform troubleshooting and problem analyses in-house and on customer site with the target of solving the customer's problem in an efficient and professional way.
- Give support to distributors and end users in connection with product installation/troubleshooting/ operation and maintenance.
- Flexible to work in related given responsibilities.

Requirements

- Bachelor's Degree or above majoring Telecommunications or related field of studies.
- Minimum 1- 2 years working experience on telecommunication field.
- Excellent verbal and written English.
- Hand-on skills and knowledge of: Switching and Access Network, GSM, IN and SMS, IP, ATM and NGN, XDSL

Administrative Assistant / Secretary

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree or above in related field
- At least 5 years experience in administration work and secretarial job
- Computer literate in commonly used office software and internet.
- Good command of the written and spoken English and Mandarin is a must
- Experience in dealing with the Revenue Department, Social Security Funds, Customs Department, etc.
- Good human relations skills with service minded and pleasant personality required
- Able to work under pressure
- Experience in an international firm is preferred

Senior International Finance Manager

Responsibilities

- Project financing for international market, managing the account receivables, responsible for making project financing proposals for international market, working out payment terms and conditions, promoting sales in both domestic and international markets through financing;
- Involvement with international sales promotion activities, such as direct overseas investment, balancing and arranging of financing and trade terms.

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from key universities majoring International Finance or related subjects;
- Familiar with international trade, international trade settlement and banking business such as capital financing,
- Two years or above working experience in the related areas, applicants with experience in structured trade finance and/or big project financing are preferred;
- Excellence verbal and written English.

Application must be submitted within 15 days from the date of this advertisement. Challenging work and perfect benefit policy will be offered. Please send your resume, a current photo, present & expected salary and relevant documents to us by mail or e-mail to the address below. Only short listed candidate will be notified.

ZTE Corporation Philippines
16F, Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Manila, Philippines
Email: zhu.ying@zte.com.cn Tel : 2-8864581 Fax: 2-8442705
More detailed introduction in: www.zte.com.cn

PRINT TOWN GROUP OF COMPANIES

(Official printer of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Libre, Asian Wall Street Journal, Cebu Daily News, Bandera, Tumbok)

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Environmental Management Supervisor

- Licensed chemical engineer/ or other engineering graduates
- At least 3 years experience in a manufacturing plant
- Willing to travel to the regional plants
- Experience as PCO is an advantage but not required
- Knowledge of Safety and Environmental Systems preferred
- Applicants must be willing to work in Mamplasan Laguna.

Cost Accounting Analyst

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree or Professional License (Passed Board/Bar/Professional License Exam) in Finance/ Accountancy/Banking or equivalent.
- Required skill(s): computer literate
- At least 1-2 year(s) of working experience in a Manufacturing firm is required for this position.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Mamplasan Laguna.
- 1-2 year(s) experienced in Cost Accounting

Sales Coordinator

- Graduate of Any Business Course
- Computer Literate
- Preferably with printing technology traning
- With at leaset 1 year experience
- Highly flexible, patient and with good public relation

Copy Editor

- 5 years experience in editing or news reporting
- A love for the written word and an appetite for current events
- Above-average mastery of written English
- Can adapt to special editorial software
- College degree
- High initiative and an analytical mind
- Layout and visual design skills are a plus

Asst. HR Analyst

- Graduate of any Behavioral Science course
- With basic knowledge on Labor Laws
- At least 1 year experience in same capacity
- Can handle work pressure, analytical, creative, keen to details, resourceful and trustworthy

FEP Printing Corporation
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Mascardo Street near corner Pasong Tamo, Makati City
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Payroll Supervisor
Payroll Assistant
Accounting Assistant

FOR BAGUIO:

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Customer Service Representatives
Admin and Facilities Officer
Telecoms Engineer
Site Support Supervisor
Site Support Technician
Employment Administrator
Purchasing Clerk

JOBFAIRS:

PASIG:
Mon to Fri (9am-3pm) Jan 10 - 14
22/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza,
Emerald Ave, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

BAGUIO:
Mon to Fri (9am-5pm) Jan 10 -14
Baguio Economic Zone, Loakan Rd.,
Baguio City

Bring your resume w/ 2x2 picture, SSS & TIN nos.

CLIENTLOGIC®
Philippines Inc.
Ortigas Center Baguio City

22/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
E-mail: recruitment@clientlogic.com.ph www.clientlogic.com

MEGA DATA CORPORATION
A pioneer in Systems Integration & Development in the Philippines
URGENTLY NEEDS

(15) Programmer Trainees

- Graduate of any 4-yr Computer, Engineering or Math-related course
- Male, Female , Single not more than 30 yrs. old
- Knowledge in C/C++ Programming an advantage

(10) Systems Support Engineer Trainees

- BSCoE, BSEE OR BSECE graduates
- Male, Single, not more than 30 yrs old
- Knowledge in Basic PC troubleshooting & Networking preferred. Willing to travel

(2) Systems Analysts

- BSCS, BSCoE, BSEE, BSECE or any 4-yr Computer or Math-related field graduates
- Male, Female, Single, not more than 30 yrs old
- At least 1 year work experience as a Systems or Business Process Analyst

(15) PC Engineer Trainees

- Associate Degree in Engineering or Computer Science or any Computer-related Technical/ Vocational Course
- Male, Single, not more than 30 yrs old
- Knowledge in Basic PC troubleshooting & Networking preferred, Willing to travel

(1) Accounting Clerk/Bookeeper

- Male, Female, Single, not more than 30 yrs old
- BS Accounting Graduate or any related course

(2) Secretaries

- Female, Single, not more than 27 years old
- Fluent in both Oral and Written English
- Knowledge in MS-Office & other Windows-based office applications
- With pleasing personality

(100) Data Encoders

- Can type 40-50 wpm or 8000-10000 cps
- Male, Female, Single, not more than 35 yrs old
- Experience an advantage

Submit Resume, 2x2 Color Photo, Transcript of Records, SSS, TIN, and NBI Clearance to

Personnel Department
MEGA-RMG3 Bldg., 667 Sgt. Bumatay St.,
Mandaluyong City

We are in need of

Certified Public Accountants

Qualifications:

- Young, not older than 35 years old
- Dynamic, analytical with a keen sense for detail
- Must have minimum 2 years work experience
- Can work under pressure
- Must be a resident of Pasig or nearby areas

Send resumé with Transcript of Records and photocopy of PRC license to:

P.O. Box #040
Pasig City

ADSPOT, Inc., a non-traditional advertising/mktg company is in need of the following individuals:

- **Project Coordinators/Account Managers**
- **Sales/Account Executives**
  - With experience in advertising and project management
- **Accountants/Bookeepers**
  - with experience and knowledge in various acctg software
- **Executive Assistants**
  - Female, can handle multi-task jobs
- **Graphic Designers**
- **Surveying Staffs/Messenger/Surveyors**
  - Pref. civil/mech eng'g background
  - with driver license

Interested applicants may submit their resumé at:

3D Westgate Towers, Investment Drive
Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang
Muntinlupa City
Or email at: adspot_inc@yahoo.com

CYBERSOFT
DATA NETWORKS, INC.

URGENT HIRING!!!

DATA ENCODERS

- ✓ Single; At least College Level
- ✓ Must be computer literate
- ✓ Excellent typing speed (at least **40 wpm** with **99% accuracy**)
- ✓ Related working experience is an advantage
- ✓ Willing to comply with shifting schedules
- ✓ Must be available to work immediately

Interested Applicants may submit **personally** their comprehensive resume with recent picture to:

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
5/F Pacific Corporate Center,
131 West Avenue, Quezon City
e-mail: redford@cyberconversion.com

Project Liaison Officer

Job Code : PLO

He shall be responsible for over-all coordination with the client from proposal to contract stages and ensure the smooth and timely delivery of project submittals. He shall take charge of all communications, documentations of meetings, other administrative concerns with the client and maintain client relationship. He shall be responsible to conduct client visits and deliver company presentations.

Qualifications
- Male or female, 26-35 years old
- College degree in Architecture, Professional registration required
- Experience in Design and Interior Architecture
- At least 5 years experience, International exposure an advantage
- Willing to be assigned in Dubai, UAE
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required
- Has the ability to deliver company presentations
- Experience with sales and marketing is preferred

Facilities Manager

Job Code : FMA

He shall be responsible for over-all management of the maintenance of the facility including electrical & mechanical system, IT infrastructure , janitorial, safety and security and the like.

Qualifications:
- 3 years work experience in building administration required
- Degree in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering required
- Professional registration required
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required

Client Services Officer

Job Code : CSG-1

He shall be responsible to perform duties in the areas of business development. client maintenance, market research, and public relations. He shall be responsible to deliver company presentations, develop client accounts, and identify client project requirements.

Qualifications
- Male or female, 26-33 years old
- College degree in Business Administration, Communication Arts
- At least 5 years experience in sales and marketing is required, experience handling corporate accounts is an advantage
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required
- Has the ability to deliver company presentations, very articulate
- Interest in design and architecture an advantage

Client Services Assistant

Job Code : CSG-2

He shall be responsible to perform support services in the areas of business development. client maintenance. market research. and public relations. He shall be responsible for coordinating client services activities. He shall be involved in the development of client accounts, identify client project requirements, and in conducting client visits.

Qualifications
- Male or female, 23-27 years old
- College degree in Business Admnistration, Communication Arts
- At least 3 years experience in sales and marketing work is required. experience handling corporate accounts is an advantage
- Knowledge in preparation of marketing collaterals and other marketing administration activities.
- Very articulate, excellent written and verbal communication skills required
- Ability to deliver company presentations is an advantage
- Interest in design and architecture an advantage

Assistant Systems Administrator

Job Code: QIS-ASA

Responsible for ensuring the continuous operation and integrity of the Windows network environment, including servers, workstations and the network infrastructure, including regular preventive maintenance, troubleshooting, problem solving and security.

Qualifications
- 1 to 3 years experience in administering and supporting Windows network environment, preferably with experience windows Server 2003
- Experience with setting up and administering security infrastructure, including firewalls and anti-virus.
- Strong understanding of networking fundamentals and security concepts

Database Developer

Job Code: QIS-DBD

Responsible for developing and maintaining internal database and intranet applications.

Qualifications
- 1 to 3 years experience in developing web-based database applications on Java and/or .NET
- Strong hands-on experience with MySQL database environment and application development
- Familiarity with Visual Basic and MS Access preferred

Interested parties may submit their comprehensive resume not later than January 21, 2005

The Environments Collaborative

27F Philamlife Tower
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Trunk +632 885 0808
Fax +632 728 0808
Email: jobs@environments.com.ph

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

SECRETARY

An international development organization has an immediate need for a SECRETARY to provide the entire range of secretarial support to one of its technical offices. The incumbent will type/draft cables, letters, memos, faxes, and other technical documents; prepare handouts and power point presentations; handle telephone calls; will receive, send out, and track required letters and other documents; perform liaison functions within the organization, with Philippine Government counterparts, contractors, and other private sector representatives. The incumbent will also assist the team in coordination of meetings and arrangement of logistics; handle the local and international travel requirements of the members of the team; maintain and update the office's files; will act as file custodian; and, will be performing other duties as may be required. Minimum educational requirement is completion of secondary education. Completion of secretarial course, business school, or college, including typing, office practice, computer course is desirable. At least two (2) years of progressively responsible secretarial or clerical experience is required with one (1) year of this experience from donor agencies, private sector, or government organizations. Excellent command of English (both written and oral); level II typing ability (40 WPM); proficiency in the use of computers (Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, Powerpoint, e-mail, internet, etc.) including basic work operations like printer set-up, files search, virus scanning, etc., are essential.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan is offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé, **not later than January 14, 2005,** to:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

Special scholarship for

LICENSED NURSE / PHYSICIAN

- Female, Single, between 25 to 33 years old
- With pleasing personality, good moral character
- Physically fit
- Trustworthy, intelligent
- Willing to take Psychological & Medical Evaluation with Polygraph test
- Text or Call 0917-9421263 for further details

Encourage Families in Need and Care for Education (EnFaNCE) Foundation, Inc.

Is an NGO helping the families in the most depressed communities of Manila.

We are in need of: **1 Registered Social Worker (RSW), 1 Occupational Therapist (OTRP), 1 Family Counselor**

Registered Social Worker (RSW)

- To assist families in education, health and family relationship through regular home visits
- Coordination with partner agencies and networking
- Monitoring of the activities
- Reporting

Occupational Therapist Registered in the Philippines (OTRP)

- Classroom assessment
- OT evaluation of children
- New activities implementation, monitoring and documentation

Family Counselor (FC)

- To assist families in education, health and family relationship through regular home visits and networking

Requirements:
- RSW or OTRP
- At least college level for FC preferably Social worker, psychology or education
- Strong interest in improving the lives of urban poor families
- Willing to work with families in the depressed areas in Manila
- With experience and/or willing to learn and to undergo trainings
- Previous exposure to urban poor communities would be an advantage
- Good communication skills

Please send your resumé w/ cover letter, picture and copy of transcript to:

Administrative Officer
EnFaNCE Foundation
5150 Tahimik Street, Corner Delpan Street
Tondo, Manila
Or e-mail to: enfancefoundation@yahoo.com

Elite Garments International, Inc.

owner and manufacturer of established brand names for the local and export market

24C ENSEMBLE freeway solo salsa

JR. FASHION MERCHANDISER

* Loves fashion & knows current trends in ladieswear
* Will be involved in design dev't & retail merchandising
* W/artistic background,at least 2-3 yrs work experience
* Mature, with leadership capabilities
* Female, below 30 yrs. old, w/ courses in Fine Arts, Advertising, Marketing, Graphic Arts, Fashion Design & related courses

STORE SALES SUPERVISOR

* Female, 25-30 yrs old, Graduate of any four year course
* Will be in charge of checking, & implementing proper procedures of store operations
* At least 2 years experience in retail supervision
* High sense of customer service orientation
* With excellent communication, leadership and decision making skills; computer literate
* Willing to be assigned anywhere and do field work

Send resumé with credentials or fax/e-mail to:
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT. (HRD)
996 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St.(Vito Cruz) Malate, Manila
Tels. #525-3593/523-0957 Fax # 521-36-71
E-mail: maye@elitegarments.com

BusinessTrends

URGENT REQUIREMENTS

CALL CENTER TEAM LEADERS

College Graduate * Preferably 1 year experienced Team Leaders * Must be proficient in team-handling and performance metrics *

Full-Time positions available

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES INBOUND and OUTBOUND

Must be willing to work in a CALL CENTER environment * Excellent ENGLISH communication skills * Willing to work on shifting schedules * Minimum educational attainment: 2nd Year College *

300 Full-Time positions available

MANAGERIAL POSITIONS

CALL CENTER OPERATIONS MANAGER
PURCHASING AND SUPPLIES MANAGER
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
ACCOUNTING MANAGER
MARKETING AND SALES MANAGER
REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE MANAGER
MERCHANDISE DIVISION MANAGER
MERCHANDISE PLANNING & CONTROL MANAGER
SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
STORE MANAGER

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR
SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS C/C++ * COBOL * JAVA * ORACL [illegible]

HEALTHCARE	SALES
NURSES	BUSINESS DEV'T OFFICERS
MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS	ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
MEDICAL SECRETARIES	DEALER COORDINATORS
LABORATORY TECHNICIANS	SALES ASSISTANTS

OFFICE SUPPORT	ACCOUNTING
Executive/Admin Assistant	Accounts Analyst
Receptionist	Accounting Assistant
General Clerk	Accounting Clerk
Encoder	Finance Staff

1603 JOLLIBEE PLAZA, EMERALD AVE.,
ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG CITY
TEL: (632) 631-3109/47
E-MAIL: btphils2004@ispx.com.ph

INTRAC Construction Corporation

An Interior Construction company with multi national clients invites highly competent individuals for excellent career opportunities as:

- **PROJECT ENGINEERS (URGENT)**
- **COST ESTIMATORS**
  - BSCE Graduate, Licensed
  - 25-32 years old
  - With at least 3 years experience in upscale, quality GenCon and Interior Construction work
- **PROJECT DESIGNERS/RENDERERS/ARCHITECTS (URGENT)**
  - BS Architecture Graduate
  - With advanced/intermediate skills in Photoshop, 3D Max or Studio Viz, Power Point and Auto Cadd
  - At least two (2) years experience in project designing
- **ACCOUNTING & FINANCE MANAGER**
  - Male/Female, 25-32 years old
  - At least 2 years experience in construction industry
  - Experience in preparation of Financial Reports, cash flow monitoring, handling bank transactions, budget allocation, coordination with external auditor and overhead analysis
- **ACCOUNTING CLERK/BOOKKEEPER**
  - Male/Female, 24-26 years old
  - At least 2 years experience in construction industry
  - Experience in bookkeeping, financial reports, bank coordination
- **SALES EXECUTIVES**
  - Male/Female, 26-32 years old
  - Smart, aggressive, persuasive and results-oriented
  - Good communication, presentation and computer skills
  - Graduate of Marketing or any related course
  - With experience in Sales & Marketing related to interior construction, furniture and fit-out

Please apply ASAP with comprehensive resumé and other credentials at 3F Carmel Suites, 15 Chronicle St. West Triangle, Quezon City on January 10 & 11 2005 and January 17 & 18, 2005; Tel. Nos.371-4674 • 373-4948 • 374-8858
email: pdp_intrac@yahoo.com

FILVENTURE INDUSTRIES CORPORATION

Looking for

TRADE RETAIL SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Qualifications:
- New Graduates Preferred
- 20-25 years old
- willing to do field work
- can work under pressure
- female
- aggressive
- pleasing personality and service oriented

Please send or drop your resumés at #18 Kamuning Road, Unit 2-E K-Plaza Building, Quezon City.

A Television Production company is in need of

Associate Producer/ Marketing Director

Applicant must possess the ff:
- ✓ College graduate
- ✓ Excellent in communication skills
- ✓ At least 3 years experience in print or broadcast media

Competitive salary to qualified applicants.

Fax your resumé at 415-8188

HUAWEI

HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILS. INC.

Our company is one of the leading network solutions providers. We develop leading edge technologies that gives solutions to telecom operators meet the fast growing need for an efficient and cost effective telecoms network.

We invite qualified applicants to join our company in our expansion program.

Product Manager-GSM/GPRS/3G

Main Responsibilities:
- To work with Account Manager on the planning of competitive strategy including business plan and action plan, based on the business opportunities and threats
- To support CDMA/GSM//WCDMA pre-sales activities by responding to RFI, RFQ, RFP, preparing and delivering technical presentation and demonstration to customers
- Marketing of Huawei CDMA/GSM//WCDMA products, including network concepts and solutions
- Supporting all CDMA/GSM//WCDMA product promotion related activities

Requirements:
- Possess at least a Bachelor's degree in the Telecommunications or related field of studies
- Good understanding into the local telecom market
- Minimum 3 years of experience in the CDMA/GSM//WCDMA environment.
- Solid technical background in telecommunications network and mobile network
- Hands-on skill and knowledge on CDMA/GSM//WCDMA network.
- Good planning and business presentation skills. Able to work well in a fast-paced changing environment
- Ability to converse in Mandarin will be an added advantage

For the successful candidates We offer attractive salary package, training opportunity and long term career prospect.

Please send your comprehensive resume, your availability, a current 2x2 photo, present & expected salary to:

MS. CHERRY CIPRIANO
cherrylyn@huawei.com
Huawei Technologies Phils. Inc.
Unit 2108, 88 Corporate Center Bldg.
Sedeno cor Valero St.
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Philippines 1200

Plantation Bay
Resort and Spa

One of the world's most distinctive resorts is inviting applications for:

DUTY MANAGER

- College Graduate
- Proficient in English, both written and oral
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- With at least 3 years related experience in a Deluxe hotel.

GUEST SERVICES OFFICER & ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- College graduate
- Proficient in English, both written and oral
- With good communication and interpersonal skills.
- With 1 - 3 years Hotel or Sales Experience.
- Knowledge in Fidelio is an advantage.
- Willing to work flexible hours.
- Must be a hardworking team player with initiative.

SOUS CHEF

- With at least 5 years experience in a De Luxe hotel or restaurant in the same capacity or
- 3 years minimum experience as Chef de Partie.

CHEF DE PARTIE & DEMI CHEF DE PARTIE

(Pastry and Hot Kitchen)

- With at least 3 years experience in a De Luxe hotel or restaurant in the same capacity.
- With pleasing personality and good communication skills.

SHIFT SUPERVISOR & PROJECT COORDINATOR

- For Shift Supervisors, must be a graduate of Electrical Engineering
- For Project Coordinators, must be a graduate of Civil Engineering
- Preferably licensed but not required
- With at least 3 years experience
- Must be computer literate with a good head for numbers and problem solving.

Very competitive compensation and benefits package.

Submit your resumé, with a letter in your normal handwriting, recent photo, certificates of employment and contact information to:

MR. CESAR D. PAJO
Human Resource Manager

For NCR Applicants:
Suite 906, National Life Insurance Building
Ayala Ave., Makati City, Philippines
Tel. + 63 - 2 - 844 5024 to 25

For Visayas Applicants
Plantation Bay Resort and Spa
Marigondon, Mactan Island, Cebu 6015
Tel. No: (032) 340-5900

Applications must be received not later than January 14, 2005

Recruiting for your future

HSPI
Hospitality Staff Phils., Inc

We are inviting hospitality professionals and staff seeking exciting opportunities in the hotel and restaurant industry in the Philippines and overseas to submit their credentials as soon as possible. Our company is scheduled to open some of the best properties in the world starting 2005.

EXECUTIVES – General Managers, Resident Managers, F & B Directors, Executive Chefs, Specialty Chefs, Rooms Division Directors, Marketing & Sales Directors, Human Resources Directors, Financial Controllers.

MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS – All departments
RANK & FILE STAFF – All departments

E-mail your resume as follows:
Executives – vicalcuaz@hspi.org
Managers & Supervisors – bav@hspi.org or dsa@hspi.org

Rank & File – omnibus@hspi.org

You may also mail or drop your resume at:

Hospitality Staff Phils, Inc.
30A 30th Floor Chatham House
116 Valero corner V.A. Rufino Sts.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Position Applied For:______________

Please visit our website at www.hspi.org and our complete job listings at www.jobstreet.com/ph/hspi.htm

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WE ARE INVITING
CALL CENTER APPLICANTS
FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

CALL CENTER ASSOCIATES
BOOKKEEPERS
HUMAN RESOURCE PERSONNEL

YOU MAY PERSONALLY BRING YOUR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ TO THE

MISA LAW OFFICES
3RD FLOOR, OAC BUILDING,
27 SAN MIGUEL AVENUE,
ORTIGAS BUSINESS DISTRICT, PASIG CITY
BETWEEN 5:00 TO 8:00 P.M.
FROM 10 TO 14 JANUARY 2005.
E-MAIL: alex@sytop.com

Do you want to be identified with a large and well-respected conglomerate?
Do you want to be a part of a team of young & aggressive professionals in charting the direction of a stable and fast-growing Bank?
If you answer in the affirmative, read on.

RobinsonsBank
A Savings Bank

*A member of the highly diversified conglomerate, JG Summit Holdings Corporation., **Robinsons Bank** is in urgent need of young professionals to fit the following key positions:*

Branch Manager
(For Dasmariñas, Cavite)

- Between 30 – 35 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- At least 2 yrs. Marketing experience & sufficient knowledge of branch operations

Marketing Officer Asset & Liabilities
(For Metro Manila, Cebu-Mandaue & Osmeña, Iloilo, San Fernando, Baguio & Naga)

- Between 25 - 35 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- With strong marketing background preferably in Banking or related fields
- Familiar with solicitation of deposit and auto loan accounts

Marketing Specialist

- Between 25-35 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- Preferably with advertising background
- With at least 2years experience in handling bank product presentation and materials conceptualization
- Highly creative and imaginative

Risk Officer

- Graduate of Math, Statistics or Actuarial Science
- A graduate degree/units in MS Finance will be a great advantage (but not required)
- Students of MS Finance with above undergrad courses are encouraged to apply
- Highly creative, analytical, energetic, can easily relate with people (not just with math equations)
- Rank will be commensurate w/ experience /education level
- Between 20-35 years old

Account Officer
(For Commercial/Consumer Lending)

- Between 25 – 35 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- With at least 2 yrs. experience as Account Officer for Commercial and Consumer Loans

Customer Relations Specialist
(For Metro Manila & Cebu)

- Between 20 – 25 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- Experience in tellering, new accounts and branch marketing is an advantage
- Willing to accept a fixed-term employment

Customer Care Assistant

- Between 20 – 25 years old
- Graduate of any Business or Communication related course
- With good oral & written comm. skills
- Willing to work during weekends
- Experience in call center is an advantage

Trust Head

- With comprehensive experience in all backroom Trust Operations
- Has extensive knowledge of all regulatory issues pertaining to trust
- Highly creative, energetic, able to assist the Trust/Marketing Head in product development
- Completed the Trust Institute of the Phils. training program on Trust Operations and Investment Management
- Rank will be commensurate w/ experience

Corplan Assistant

- Between 23-30 years old
- Graduate of Statistics or Actuarial Science
- Graduate/Units in MS Finance
- Previous experience not necessary
- Must be highly analytical

Sales & Service Officer
(For Pool)

- Male; Between 25-30 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- 3-5 years experience in, new accounts, tellering, bookkeeping and supervision and branch marketing is an advantage
- CPA an advantage

I.T. Head

- Between 30-40 years old
- With adequate experience in Banking Systems: CIF, GL, Deposit, Remittance, Loans, Treasury/Trust, Cards
- Technical skill experience: AS400, Windows NT, Windows 98/2000/ME/XP, Office98/2000/ME/XP, SQL Server/MS Access, RPG/Visual Basic, CISCO Router/ Extreme Switches/Firewall
- With adequate management skills.

System Operation Section Head

- Graduate of Computer Science or any related science courses
- Has a strong background in MIS and IT operation gained from Banks
- With in-depth knowledge on project management, SDLC & RCS methodologies
- Familiar with BSP Compliances & Financial Regulations
- 3-5 years experience in a Supervisory position or equivalent in an IT environment of Banks

I.T. Auditor

- Between 22 - 30 years old
- Graduate of Accounting; CPA
- With at least 1year experience in systems audit gained from an Audit Firm or Banks
- Must be highly analytical

Applicants for the above positions must be:

- Flexible
- Computer literate
- With good oral & written comm. skills
- With pleasing personality

Interested applicants may submit their Letter of Application, Resumé, & Transcript of Records to:

ROBINSONS SAVINGS BANK - HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GROUP
Units 101 & 201 Continental Court Condominium,
47 Annapolis Street, Greenhills,San Juan
Fax no. (632) 7212336 • Email: recruitment@robinsonsbank.com.ph
Only qualified applicants shall be notified.

A JG Summit Company

IMMEDIATE HIRING
IN MAKATI OFFICE

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Suite 2104 21st Flr.
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
(Beside Makati Post Office)

TO OCCUPY VARIOUS POSITIONS IN THE COMPANY

IF YOU ARE:

- ✓ College graduates of at least 4 year course from reputable schools and universities
- ✓ Energetic men and women of at least 20 years old and above
- ✓ Individuals who have a good command of English or Chinese Language
- ✓ With or Without Work Experience
- ✓ Willing to start immediately (not presently employed or enrolled)

THEN YOU DESERVE:

- ✓ A STARTING PAY OF ABOVE AVERAGE INCOME
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- ✓ Career development and growth with our automatic promotion system
- ✓ Travel Opportunities (here and abroad)

*See us in your **PROPER BUSINESS ATTIRE** with 2 pcs. (2x2) Passport-sized pictures, complete resumé, clipping of this ad and valid ID from Monday – Wednesday (January 10 to January 12, 2005) from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. present another ID to gain entrance in the building.*

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Ermita, Manila
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nurses@whiteglovecare.com
Fax Resume 001-718-387-8359
Tel 001-718-387-8163

Visit us on the web at www.whiteglovecare.com

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

An international development organization has an immediate need for a PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST (Education) with a wide range of responsibilities that integrate elements of program and project development and management for Education activities which include coordinating and scheduling the project design process; conducting project analyses; identifying feasible project approaches; drafting project documentation; and coordinating with Philippine government officials. He/She will assist the Senior Project Management Specialist and the Senior Education Advisor in the development and conceptualization of the Education portfolio and will also serve as Project Manager for projects/activities to monitor and evaluate the performance of project contractors; identify project-specific problems and issues, and propose solutions; assist in the preparation of status reports; track project expenditures and report any major expenditure problems. As directed by the Supervisor, he/she will carry out special assignments such as serving on committees, participating in technical evaluations, and contributing inputs on education. Minimum requirement is a bachelor's degree in a field relevant such as education, economics, public or business administration. One or more years of graduate studies is desirable. At least 4 years of progressive responsibility in project or related management work in the field of education, including experience in the analysis of data and oral/written presentation. Abilities to develop and maintain a wide range of contacts with mid-level government officials and to analyze new infrastructure developments and their impact on education. Must have excellent interpersonal and communication (oral and written) skills and must be computer literate.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan is offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé, **not later than January 14, 2005**, to:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

CONSOLIDATED MATRIX, INC.

A leading services group is in need of

CORPORATE AND LABOR LAWYER

Basic Qualifications:

- 26 to 35 years old
- at least two (2) years experience in trial and litigation
- extensive knowledge in corporate and labor law, employee benefits and compensation
- knowledge in contracts preparation, review and documentation.
- computer literate
- good scholastic records
- high degree of human and interpersonal relation

Good compensation awaits for the successful applicants

* All interested applicants may submit their resumé with school credentials and sample of pleading prepared to 315 CMI Bldg., Commonwealth Ave., Diliman, Quezon City or
call (02) 951-1515 / 951-7267 / 951-2420 for details.
Look for Rowyn – email: rowyn29@yahoo.com

YOUR DREAM DAY
2005
1st session Strategic Planning w/ org. dev't.
Coaching w/ my manager
Finish weekly revenue report
up to seats. Badminton!!!
meeting
company
day

A BRAND NEW YEAR.
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You work for the **largest Asia-based call center**, servicing over 20 Fortune 1000 clients. eTelecare recently **acquired Arizona-based Phase 2 Solutions, one of the fastest growing call centers in the US.** With people as our success drivers, eTelecare fully intends to continue its **rapid growth from 7,000 employees today to 15,000 in five years.**

Best of all, you are coached by the industry's best. eTelecare has sealed its reputation as the **world's most awarded call center by winning the Best Outsourcer award for four years in a row at the International Call Center Management (ICCM) Conference and Exposition**, the world's largest call center trade show.

Perhaps it's the training or team culture or the knowledge that you work for the world's most awarded call center. But whatever it is, you'll get that feeling, you'll get that high when you have earned the e mark.

MANILA CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

FINANCE
- Financial Analyst
- Internal Audit Manager

IT
- Senior Application Developer
- Business Analyst
- Telecoms Specialist
- Junior Helpdesk Associate

CORPORATE HUMAN RESOURCE
- Compensation & Benefits Manager
- Employee Relations Officer

CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT GROUP
- Leadership Recruiting Manager
- Senior OD Officer

OPERATIONS
- Director
- Technical Support Representatives
- Multilingual Representatives (French, Japanese, Spanish)
- Operations Managers
- Shift Managers
- Resource Specialists

CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT
- Facilities Manager
- Procurement Specialist for IT
- Corporate Asset Specialist
- eStore Assistant

GROWTH
- Project Manager for Program Implementation
- Contract Quality Assurance Manager

CEBU CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

CORPORATE HUMAN RESOURCE
- Recruiting Officers
- Employee Relations Officer
- Employee Events Staff

RESOURCE
- Resource Analyst
- Lighthouse Analyst

CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT GROUP
- Organizational Development Manager
- Organizational Development Trainers
- CDG Staff
- Training Admin Staff

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS
- Corporate Communication Specialist

IT
- IT Manager
- Computer Systems Specialist
- Network Engineer

OPERATIONS
- Team Leader

QUALITY ASSURANCE
- Quality Assurance Associates

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  Eastwood Office: 20/F CyberOne Building
  Eastwood City Cyberpark
  Bagumbayan, Quezon City
  Cebu Office: 6/F PIPC Engineering Sciences Bldg.
  Asia Town IT Park, Salinas Drive
  Lahug, Cebu City 6000
- **E-mail** your resume to —
  Manila: recruiting@etelecare.com
  Cebu: ceburecruiting@etelecare.com or www.etelecare.com
- **Join** our Job Fair —
  January 10-14: UP Diliman College of Engineering
  8am-5pm
  January 12: University of Asia and the Pacific
  8:30am-5:30pm • 5/F APEC Communications Bldg.
  January 14-15: St. Joseph's College
  9am to 4pm • New Student Lounge

**Based on Watson Wyatt's 2004 Industry Compensation Survey results*

INQUIRER

JOB Market

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2005
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JOB Market ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

JOB*Market* is exclusively for job advertisements.
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☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St., Manila
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465

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Goals for 2005

1. Find a challenging and exciting new job
2. Skills enhancement
3. Work in a leading global company
4. Career advancement

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Are these what you're looking for this 2005?

This is what we're looking for.

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At Daksh, besides being exposed to our Fortune 500 clients, you'll be part of IBM, the world's largest information technology and business solutions company. Yes, Daksh is now part of IBM, and together, we'll transform the business processes of other colossal companies. In the process, you'll become well versed in the best global practices, and gain the competence to perform to international industry standards. After all, you'll have occasion to learn not only from over 70 business processes, but even from over 6000 colleagues at our 5 service delivery locations and have the opportunity to rise in your profession 'vertically' as well as 'horizontally'.

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We are looking for individuals to fill the following positions:

Customer Care Specialist

(JOB CODE: PDI – CCS)
Responsible for providing excellent customer service and inbound sales through phone on a 24x7 basis.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:
- Graduate of any Bachelor's Degree
- Has less than 1 year related work experience; Fresh graduates are also encouraged to apply or those who have no related prior work experience
- Willingness and drive to do inbound sales is required; previous experience is an advantage
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Must be proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Willingness to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment is a must

Openings for CCS are for immediate hiring.

Email your resume mentioning JOB CODE in the subject line to: ***applications@daksh.com***

Team Leaders (JOB CODE: PDI - TL)

Responsible for leading a team of CCS in achieveing their team goals

Trainers (JOB CODE: PDI - TRN)

Responsible for conduct client-specific, voice and accent or soft skills training.

Workforce Specialist

(JOB CODE: PDI - WS) Responsible for schedule assignments and monitoring shift changes

Workforce Manager

(JOB CODE: PDI - WM) Responsible for balanced scheduling forecasting, analysis and managing a team of Workforce Specialists.

Email your resume mentioning JOB CODE in the subject line to:
careerphilippines@daksh.com

To join Daksh, an IBM Subsidiary:
1. Visit us at the 30th Floor PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City from Mondays - Fridays 9 am - 6 pm.
Bring your resume for an immediate interview.
2. To learn more about Daksh, visit **www.daksh.com.ph**

Call 81-DAKSH (32574) for more details.

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MISYS

Misys International Banking Systems
A new insight into software solutions

Misys International Banking Systems is the leading supplier of IT solutions and services to the banking industry, with international branches located in 29 countries. Our product range includes solutions for international and retail banking, treasury and capital markets, trade finance, private banking and risk management.

Currently we are looking to recruit top caliber professionals to fill the following positions:

RPG Programmer (RPG2005) - with at least 2-3 years extensive/complex software development work experience in AS/400 environment (RPG/ILE), preferably on commercial (not in-house) applications. Pre-requisites:

> ***Comfortable with coding standards and templates, ability to write code based on written specifications, perform unit and system testing, good communication and inter-personal (team) skills. Distinct advantage would be knowledge in banking and/or Equation Banking Server.***

Quality Team Leader (QTL2005) - with at least three (3) years experience in a similar role in a software development environment; knowledge in ISO 9001:2000 or any equivalent quality standard program, has taken an active part in the preparation and enforcement of procedures. Pre-requisites:

> ***Previous exposure to complex software development project activities, knowledgeable in using computer systems and pertinent software, must possess good interpersonal skills, strong verbal and written abilities. Distinct advantage would be experience in quality initiatives such as Six Sigma, CMMI and others. Overseas exposure is a plus.***

Systems Analyst (SA2005) - with a minimum of 4 - 5 years experience working successfully as a Systems in a Retail Banking environment. Pre-requisites:

> ***Equation knowledge. Write proposal and functional design, train the senior technical designers and support them whilst the Design Overview is being written, train the entire project team to a level that they understand the overall functionality required, review the Design, write System Test Plan Overview, review documentation, provide ad-hoc consultancy to the project team, run Fit for Business Testing both on the end enhancement and on high risk, complex programs and advise on the skill profiles required within the development team.***

Development Project Manager (DPM2005) - with a minimum of 6 - 8 years experience in a software development environment, strong management skills. Pre-requisites:

> ***Software development project management (resource planning, reporting, staff management, etc.), ability to understand the technical aspects of the role and good communication skills. Distinct advantage would be knowledge in banking and Equation, RPG knowledge and experience in technical work/system design.***

Senior Project Manager (SPM2005) - with a minimum of 8 - 10 years experience in a software development environment, strong management skills. Pre-requisites:

> ***Software development project management through the project managers, ensuring that external and internal commitments are met, process, Conflict and staff management and contribute to process improvement intitiatives for the location.***

Senior Analyst/Programmer (SAP2005) - with at least four (4) years analysis and programming experience including one or more of the following:

> ***VB6, VC++, VBscript, COM, MTS, ADO, MS SQL Server, MQSeries***

Programmer – Analyst/Programmer (PAP2005) - with at least two (2) years analysis and programming experience including one or more of the following:

> ***VB6, VC++, VBscript, COM, ADO, MS SQL Server***

Project Manager (PM2005) - with at least five (5) years experience leading software development projects, successfully managed a team of people in a progressive team environment, good communication and influencing skills plus familiarity with scheduling projects including one or more of the following:

> ***BSC in Accounting, Finance, Business, Economics or Technical degree. MSc or MBA a plus.***

Misys International Banking Systems Inc.
10th Floor Philam Life Tower
Paseo De Roxas Street
cor Ayala Avenue
Makati City

OR

Email at: hrd.manila.retail@misys.com

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION:
31 January 2005

TOWER CLUB

The Tower Club, the premier Private Business and Social Club, owned and developed by Philamlife, the country's largest and most respected insurer and a proud member of the American International Group (AIG) and managed by CCA International Ltd. based in Hong Kong and London, one of the leading leisure companies in the development and management of golf resorts, city, country, athletic clubs and hotels & resorts in Asia and Europe which owns and operates over 30 clubs and hotels with 240 affiliate clubs worldwide, is currently searching for the position of:

MEMBERSHIP SALES MANAGERS

The ideal candidates must have at least five (5) years experience in a Senior Sales position in Hotel, Private Club or related industries. A self-motivated, people person with superior communication and organizational skills with existing business and social contacts as well as exceptional strength in uncovering business opportunities. Candidates must be willing to work flexible hours.

FITNESS INSTRUCTOR

Male or Female. Must be college graduate with a degree in either Physical Therapy or Physical Education. Has at least 3 years experience in a 5-star Hotel or Club operation. Good leadership and communication skills. Superior knowledge of fitness center operations.

RECEPTIONIST

Female, with pleasing personality. Must have a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Administration or Tourism. Minimum 3 years relevant experience, preferably in customer service or in similar capacity. Able to deal with high profile executives, well organized and has good written and verbal communication skills.

Qualified candidates may send an application letter and comprehensive resume with passport size photo to:

Tower Club, Inc.
34/F Philamlife Tower
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Email: hr@towerclub.com.ph

(Kindly submit your application on or before January 18, 2005)

Only qualified candidates will be entertained.

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Customer Service Representative

- Male or Female
- 19-29 years old
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Submit your resume with 2x2 picture to:

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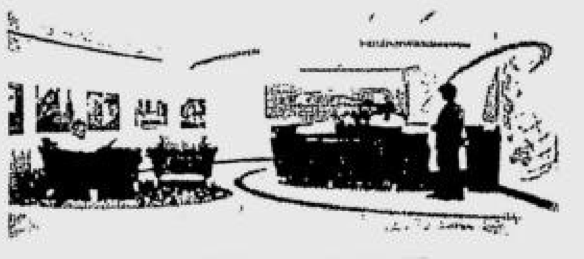
26th St., cor. 3rd Ave. Crescent, Parkwest
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila
Trunk line: 811-7400
recruitment@connect2inc.com
www.connect2inc.com



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MEDICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES and HERBAL DISTRIBUTORS

Qualifications:

- College graduate
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- Pleasing personality
- Willing to be assigned anywhere

Interested applicants may submit their resumé at:

PHARMACARE PRODUCTS CO.
25 Kabignayan St., Banawe, Q.C.

ACCOUNTANTS

- Accounting graduate
- CPA is preferred
- Willing to work either in Quezon City or Malvar, Batangas

CIVIL ENGINEERS

- with one (1) year work experience

For interested applicants, please come for an interview on Jan. 10-21, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. at CVG Centre, # 36 1st Avenue Cubao, Quezon City or call at 723-4922. Look for Mae Virtucio

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Good healthcare depends on good health information.

Medical transcriptionists use training in medicine and allied disciplines to process health information that literally preserves and saves lives...and they make a healthy living while doing it.

If you've had actual medical transcription work experience for at least one year or are able to transcribe an average of 500 lines or more per day, or if you've earned a science or health-related degree, you can put that knowledge to use by making a difference and making good money now as an SPI medical transcriptionist.

Opportunity is also open to non-science or non-allied health-related degree holders with exceptional English language communication skills, or those with legal or business transcription background.

We are also in need of **Training Supervisors** who have at least a year's experience in teaching or training and development. A background in medical transcription is an advantage.

A medical transcription career with **SPI Technologies** offers:

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spi technologies

E-mail your updated resumé to: be_anmtcebu@spitech.com (for Cebu applicants)
be_anmt@spitech.com (for Manila applicants)

Submit personally or mail resumé to the following SPI office locations:

Manila:
SPI Technologies Inc.
HR Corporate Recruitment
SPI Building
Pascor Drive, Parañaque City

Cebu:
G/F PIPC Engineering Sciences Building,
J.M. del Mar St.,
Asia Town IT Park,
Lahug, Cebu City, 6000

Visit us at: **www.spitech.com/healthdoc.html**

Please include position code on the envelope/subject line: PD MT (for Medical Transcriptionist applicants)

For the Training Supervisor position, e-mail your updated resume to: r.araga@spitech com

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Account Managers

- Candidate must possess a Bachelor's/College Degree in Management, Accounting, Industrial or Chemical Engineering
- At least 2 years of working experience in the related field is required for this position.
- A communication skill with ability to make product presentations and network with clients is a must.
- Exposure in selling any of the following systems is an advantage:
  1. Manufacturing Systems
  2. ERP Systems
  3. CRM Systems
  4. Financial Accounting Systems

Web Developer

- Must be a Computer Engineering graduate
- At least one year working experience in the related field
- Is experienced in MS.Net

Telemarketer

- At least Management graduate with one (1) year experience in the same field
- Has good communication skills.

Business Coordinator

- Candidate must have Accounting background
- Has excellent communication skills

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Sales Director

- At least 28 years old
- Graduate in Management, Accounting or Computer Science
- Skills in IT software selling
- Experience Managing sales person for 3 years
- Experience in handling large customer accounts at least for 2 years
- MBA is a plus

Marketing Director

- At least 25 years old
- Experienced working in the IT industry is a plus
- Experienced handling events, PR and advertising at least for 2 years
- Skills in computer software design are a must.
- Very good communication skills in written and oral English is a must

Send your comprehensive resume to:
Human Resources Officer
2nd Floor UA Building
135 N. Domingo Street,
San Juan, Metro Manila
Or e-mail to: **careeropportunities@abm-computech.com**

INQUIRER
PUBLICATIONS, INC.

BANDERA / CEBU DAILY NEWS / TUMBOK

Which publishes Cebu Daily News has a vacancy for a

Senior Editor

- Five years editing experience in a news organization
- Above-average command of written English
- Supervisory and leadership skills
- High sense of public service
- Strong competitive drive
- Works well under pressure of daily deadlines
- College graduate
- Cebu resident

Copy Editor

- At least 3 years editing experience in a news organization
- Above-average command of written English
- A love for the written word and an appetite for current events and news
- High initiative and an analytical mind
- Works well under pressure of daily deadlines
- Computer skills: MS Word and new programs to be taught
- College graduate and Cebu resident
- Campus journalism experience is an advantage

Please send an application letter, resume and references to

Editorial Director
Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario Street, Cebu City

Email: **search@inquirerpublications.ph**
feanoy@fep.ph/ailumin@fep.ph/noasan@fep.ph

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!

COMPUTER OPERATOR

- ✓ Female
- ✓ Familiar with different MS OS and MS Office
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- ✓ With high analytical skills
- ✓ Not more than 26 years old
- ✓ With pleasing personality

* Proficiency in MS Access is a **PLUS**

Contact Person:
Dess
636-6327 to 29; 631-7401

Fast growing children's garment exporter in Angono, Rizal is expanding and needs:

MERCHANDISERS - female, computer literate, w/ experience working in garment industry. Will be responsible for turning artwork into finish garment within schedule and budget.

ACCOUNTANT - female, computer literate, with experience. Will be responsible for payroll.

QUALITY CONTROLLERS - female, with experience in garment industry.

Interested applicants should call Medy at 451-0818

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PLS. COME BETWEEN 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Woodworking Company

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Architect/Interior Designer
34 years and below
Executive Secretary
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30 to 40 years old
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at least 2 yr college. 18-24 years old

In all positions salary commensurate to qualification and experience

Bring resumé with recent ID picture
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E-mail your resumé to
manilajobs@peoplesupport.com

Cebu
Visit for immediate interview
e-Office 1, AsiaTown I.T. Park,
Apas, Lahug, Cebu City
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Call our Cebu HR Hotline at
(032) 234-8222
E-mail your resumé to
cebu@peoplesupport.com

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With at least six months GDS experience

Spanish-speaking eReps
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Japanese-speaking eReps
Excellent Japanese and English communication skills

Candidates must be assigned to a specific account to qualify for the Premium.

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FINANCE
Systems Accountant

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Employee Relations Officer
Compensation Officer

TRAINING (Manila & Cebu)
Travel Trainers
Communication Trainers
Management Development Trainer

Visit **www.peoplesupport.com** *careers page* for more details.

Our subsidiary **STC Solutions** is looking for

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Visit for immediate interview
25F ExportBank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave.
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Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Call the STC HR Hotline at
(02) 755-2672
E-mail your resumé to
stcjobs@peoplesupport.com

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Has Opening for High-Caliber & Dynamic Individuals for the following positions:

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- Degree Holder major in any Science field
- Above-average written & oral communication skills
- Computer proficient preferably in MAC applications
- Deadline – oriented & self motivated
- Writing experience is a plus

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT for Social Studies
- M/F, Single, not over 27 years old
- Degree Holder preferably of Education maj. in Social Studies / AB History graduate
- Equipped with good command of oral and written communication
- Computer proficient preferably in MAC applications
- Self-motivated and deadline-oriented
- Teaching/Writing experience is a plus

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT for English
- M/F, Single, not over 27 years old
- Degree Holder preferably of Education maj. in English / Communication Arts
- Above-average mastery of written English
- Computer proficient preferably in MAC applications
- Self-motivated and deadline-oriented
- Teaching/Writing experience is a plus

HR ASSISTANT
- Preferably male, Single, not over 27 years old
- Graduate of Psychology or any Behavioral Science course
- Familiar with psychological tests administration
- Computer proficient
- Good interpersonal & communication skills
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

ACCOUNTING STAFF
- M/F, Single, not over 27 years old
- BS Accountancy graduate
- 1-2 years of work experience in similar field
- Good communication skills
- Personable / Computer proficient

SALES SERVICE CLERK
- Male, Single, not over 27 years old
- Graduate of any business course
- Computer proficient
- Good oral & written communication
- Personable / must stand at least 5'7"

WAREHOUSE HELPERS
- Male / Single not over 28 years old
- At least 2nd year College level (preferably of business/engineering courses)
- Height Requirement: 5'7"; Physically fit
- Computer proficient / good typing skills

Qualified candidates may drop off or mail their resumé (with contact nos.) w/ recent 2x2 colored photo and Transcript of Records at:

THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
1253 G. Araneta Avenue, Q.C. (near Talayan Village)

CMP
United Business Media

CMPMedica Asia, an international company specializing in healthcare communications with a reputation for the quality and innovation of its print & electronic products, is in need of highly qualified people to fill up a new position:

Research Editor

Qualifications
- Male/Female, 21-35 years old
- Graduate of Medicine or Pharmacy
- With good clinical pharmacy and pharmacology background (preferably with adequate ability to analyze drug information and had been involved in clinical decisions in a hospital setting)
- Proficient in English oral and written communication (proficiency in other languages, e.g. Chinese, will be an advantage)
- Experience in effective medical literature searches from printed and online references
- Ability to interpret and write technical subjects will be an advantage
- Computer-literate, with good working knowledge of standard Microsoft Office word processing and spreadsheet package (familiarity with Pagemaker will be an advantage)
- Must be hardworking, flexible, highly-organized and able to meet deadlines, and commited to the highest standards of quality and accuracy

Qualified applicants should submit within January 2005 their *resumé with recent photo, copy of transcript of records, diploma and board exam results* to:

Ms. Judith Algas
MediMarketing, Inc.
10/F Lepanto Building 8747 Paseo De Roxas Makati City 1226
Tel No: 886 0333 loc 202 ● Fax No: 886 0352
Email: judith.algas@asia.cmpmedica.com

Looking for

PROGRAMMERS/SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS

with the following qualifications:
- Must be an experienced Powerbuilder System Developers
- Must have an experience in converting 2-tier applications to 3-tier architecture
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Intersted applicant should be available
to start immediately
Attractive salary offer.
Please reply to pbprogrammers04@yahoo.com

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Applications with full details, copies of references and recent ID photo should be sent to:

YACHT CREW
c/o Box No. KA-026-05 BJ
Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F, Trinity Bldg.
#636 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita
Manila

Quality Control Engineer – ME or IE grad., (pref. resident of Caloocan City or nearby towns)

Maintenance Engineer – ME or EE grad.

Inventory / Purchasing Clerk – Acctg. or IE grad.

HRD Clerk – BS Psycho grad.

(preferably residents of Antipolo City or nearby towns)

w/ at least 2 years experience in mftg. co. pref, in an automotive industry, w/ good scholastic record, oral & written communication skills, computer literate.

Please bring your resumé, transcript of record, diploma NBI / Police Clearance, birth cert., 2 x 2 ID & medical cert. at: B-4 Auto Seat Cover Corp. No. 44 Circumferential Road Bgy. Dalig, Antipolo City

Tel. No. 696-0245 / 697-6402
email: b4corp@info.com.ph

LOURDES SCHOOL OF MANDALUYONG
Shaw Blvd., Greenhills, Mandaluyong City 1552
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Website: www.lsm.edu.ph.com
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☞ SECRETARY

- Bachelor of Science in Secretarial Administration
- With at least 1 year experience, preferably in an educational institution
- At least 22 years old
- Knowledgeable in the operation of office machines
- Computer literate
- With pleasing personality

Apply personally with resumé for interview from Mondays to Fridays, 8:30 – 11:00 AM only.

ENCLOSURE SYSTEMS SPECIALISTS, INC.

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TWO (2) ACCOUNT MANAGERS

TO SELL OUR RITTAL INDUSTRIAL ENCLOSURES, PHOENIX CONTACT, PEPPERS CABLE GLANDS AND OTHER PRODUCT BRANDS TO INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL USERS.

- Male/Female at least 25 yrs of age, computer literate
- Good command of English, ability to conduct presentations and interface with senior management.
- Excellent customer service orientation, dynamic, self-motivated and with positive sales attitude.
- Proven, substantiated track record in sales
- Having a car would be an advantage.

Specific Requirements

- **Account Manager No. 1:** Any engineering course with at least 3 years sales experience in a process plant environment
- **Account Manager No. 2:** Any IT-related degree with at least 3 years sales experience in the IT industry.

The successful candidate can look forward to a Guaranteed Monthly Pay, Benefit Package, Allowances, Performance-based Commission and other incentives.

Please send your comprehensive resumé to:
Human Resource Department
Email: cardex@mozcom.com
Fax No.: 818-5006

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Announcement for Hiring for the Position of

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IV

(CHEDB-EXED4-2-1998; SG-29)

The post of the Executive Director IV is the highest-ranking official of the Commission below the Chairman and Commissioners. The Executive Director IV is the chief operating officer of CHED, and as such, is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of CHED, including the enforcement of the policies and regulations and the implementation of the plans for higher education.

Minimum Qualification Standards:

1. Preferably with Doctoral Degree related to the job
2. At least three years of supervisory experience
3. Career Executive Service Officer (CESO) or Career Executive Service Eligible (CESE) (In exceptional cases, the President of the Philippines may appoint a non-CES eligible)

Required Documents to be submitted:

1. Personal Data Sheet (CS Form No. 212)
2. Clearances from the following Agencies:
   - 2.1 Office of the Ombudsman
   - 2.2 Civil Service Commission
   - 2.3 National Bureau of Investigation
3. Duly Sworn Statement of Assets and Liabilities
4. Duly Certified Copy of Latest Income Tax Return
5. Certification of existence or non-existence of pending administrative case
6. Certification of physical fitness; medical record certified by physician specifying illness, if any, of applicant
7. Write-up or Paper of your Vision and Mission for CHED

Additional pertinent documents must be submitted to support Administrative Experience, Linkages and Networking Capabilites, Academic Qualification and Relevant Training/s, and Professional Expertise such as Consultancy engagements, Lectures delivered, Papers presented, Research conducted, Published Books and Materials, Awards/Recognitions received, and involvement in relevant professional organizations/associations.

Application must be addressed to The Chairman, Commission on Higher Education and be submitted in five (5) copies on or before January 17, 2005 to:

The Screening and Selection Committee
c/o Human Resource Management Division,
Administrative and Finance Service
Commission on Higher Education
Ground Floor, Jollibee Center Building,
San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center,
Pasig City

AMPHIL BIO CHEMICAL

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

MARKETING REPRESENTATIVE

Qualifications: Must be a Graduate of Medical Technology Course
Marketing Experience required
Very good communication skills

Qualified applicants may submit resumé with supporting documents to:

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Suite 708 Richville Corporate Tower
Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang
Muntinlupa City, Philippines
Tel. Nos: 850-1711; 850-1861; Fax: 850-1502

A growing LAW FIRM based in Quezon City is in need of ASSOCIATES with the following qualifications:

- ❖ Must be a bar passer from a reputable law school
- ❖ Must have at least 1-2 years experience in litigation
- ❖ Must be computer literate
- ❖ Must have excellent oral & written communication skills

Interested applicants may submit their resumé via fax: **415-6265** or through e-mail:
acm_law@yahoo.com

IT'S WORK, BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT.

Multimedia Entertainment Organization has several "to die for" positions available

LICENSING EXECUTIVES/BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

Young & mature-minded, 26-32 yrs. old, experienced in Sales Production, Intellectual Properties and Franchise Selling. Graduate of Marketing or any business-related course. With at least 4 yrs exp. In Sales/Marketing Account Management Preferably with own car Chinese speaking is an asset Free to travel here & abroad

MARKETING ASSISTANTS / BRAND OFFICERS

Can write/do it all to assist in Marketing, Sales, Advertising, Promotions, public relations, research, copy/creative writing, etc. with minimum supervision. Must be a natural hyperactive human between 264 to 312 full moons, taller than 66 inches with 2 to 3 yrs. working experience in a Marketing environment. Must love the **GOOD LIFE**. A real go-getter when it comes to work. In 7 simple words, JACK OF ALL TRADES, MASTER OF SOME. Free to travel here and abroad. Willing to work long hours when required.

The pace is super-fast, the atmosphere ultra-positive and the rewards unlimited such as foreign travel. If you are ready for this opportunity and not afraid of things that "look like work", then send in your comprehensive resume & passport size photo to: empirent@mozcom.com or mail to

P.O. BOX 456 GREENHILLS 1502

To see if you're qualified to join us or to see what else is available visit; http://www.empiremultimedia.com

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A US-based I.T. Company is in urgent need of dynamic individuals for its Philippine office.

Web Programmers / Application Developers

- ✓ *Advanced knowledge in Java Script, VBScript, ASP, ASP.NET and Visual Basic programming languages.*
- ✓ *Sufficient background in SQL Server*
- ✓ *Background on GIS applications an advantage*

CAD Support Engineers

- ✓ *Degree in Engineering (Civil / Electrical / Mechanical) or Architecture*
- ✓ *Advanced Knowledge in AutoCAD VBA*
- ✓ *Strong communication and troubleshooting skills to support US-based Engineering customers.*
- ✓ *Must be willing to work on different shifts*

Systems Engineer

- ✓ *Demonstrated skills in Windows 2000/2003*
- ✓ *Advanced hardware, software & network troubleshooting and support skills*
- ✓ *Active Directory Services Management*
- ✓ *Security Management & Group Policy Objects*
- ✓ *Working background on Unix / Oracle preferred*
- ✓ *Minimum 2 years experience on Windows Server support required*

Technical Documentation Officer

- ✓ *College graduate of any 4-year course*
- ✓ *Excellent written and oral communication skills*
- ✓ *Highly effective organization skills*
- ✓ *Experienced in writing proposals and user documentations for software applications*
- ✓ *Knowledge in project management tools an advantage*
- ✓ *Proficiency in computer applications required*

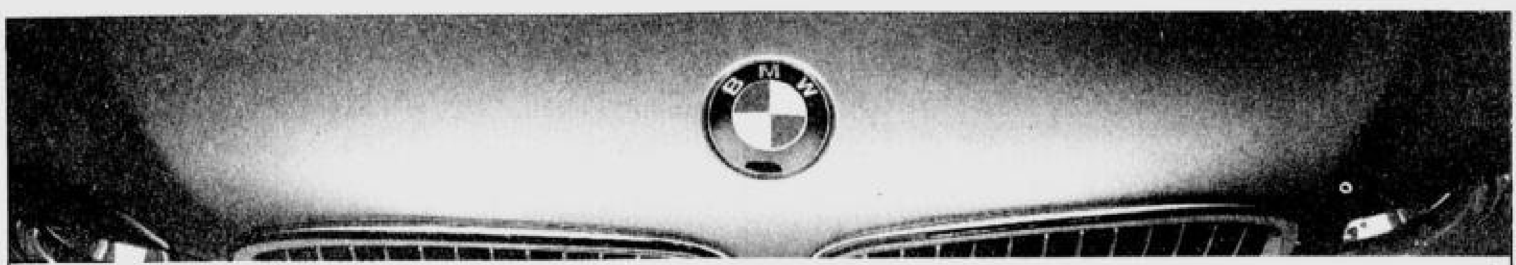
Finance and Admin Officer

- ✓ *Business degree in Accounting or Finance*
- ✓ *Knowledgeable in accounting principles, practices and financial reporting*
- ✓ *Must have at least 2 years experience in related work*
- ✓ *Proficiency in related computer applicationsPreferably with office administration experience*

Candidates must be between 21 to 35 years old, with good interpersonal skills, and able to work efficiently under pressure.

Please send your resume with 2x2 colored picture to :

33 - D Rufino Pacific Tower
6784 Ayala Ave. Makati City 1226



Autohaus BMW

Autohaus BMW, an exclusive authorized BMW dealer of cars and motorcycles, is looking for high-caliber personnel prepared to take on bigger challenges.

Sales Executive

Qualifications:

- College Graduate of any 4-year course.
- Experience in car dealerships is an advantage.
- Driven by a commitment to excellence.

Apply in person starting Monday, Jan. 10, 2005.
Interested applicants can also email or send their comprehensive resume to:

The Human Resource Department
Autohaus BMW
184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City
hrd@autohausbmw.com.ph

Sheer Driving Pleasure

URGENT NEED

Seasoned Individuals in the management and delivery of Business Development Services to SMEs are invited to apply for the position of

Assistant Coordinator for Regional Development Activities

Qualifications:

- ✓ With more than 3 years successful experience in conducting training events and seminars on a regional and national level.
- ✓ With more than 3 years successful experience within an NGO or corporate environment.
- ✓ Can deal and work effectively with all types of people.
- ✓ Can effectively write reports and proposals.
- ✓ Can work with a minimum supervision.
- ✓ Preferably with development work experience.
- ✓ Preferably a graduate of Industrial Engineering, Psychology or related Social Science courses
- ✓ Preferably connected with a wide network of consultants and trainers

Product Designers with more than 3 years work experience are also welcome to apply.

For qualified applicants immediately send your letter of intent and resumés to jrdelacruz@apfti.org.ph or fax it to (02)-454-1567. Deadline for application is on January 15, 2005.

The exclusive Philipine distributor of an Integrated Business System from Canada requires candidates who will handle any or a combination of the following jobs:

- Marketing / sale of the system and the related services
- Development of an extensive reseller/partner network
- System implementation consultancy for various clients
- Post-sale/post-implementation support service

Qualifications:

- Accounting graduates with knowledge of MS Access
- IT graduates with appreciation of accounting & finance
- Knowledge of Visual Basic & related experience a plus

Please send resumé to: The Managing Consultant, No. 592 CRM Avenue, Almanza, Las Piñas City

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Streetward International Inc.

Is in need of

ACCOUNTING HEAD

- × Female, Graduate of BS Accountancy or BSC Accounting Major
- × Minimum of two years experience in general accounting
- × Good technical and practical knowledge
- × Good inter personal oral and written communication
- × Resourceful, highly motivated and can work with minimum supervision
- × Proficient in computer
- × Licensed or CPA is an advantage but not required

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- × Female, must be accounting graduate with good scholastic records
- × With extensive experience in accounting works
- × Possesses good working attitude

Please send your resume with 2x2 picture at:
Streetward International Inc.
45 Detroit Street, Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. No. 411-0550; 726-3354

Belize Communications Solutions

TIRED OF THOSE NO BRAINER JOBS?
WANT TO BE IN A REAL AMERICAN MARKETING ENVIRONMENT?

JOIN & GROW WITH US.....

BCS INFOSYSTEMS SERVICES, INC. (www.bcsinfosystems.com) is an International business solutions provider with e-commerce, internet security, CRM and Marketing & Sales Support offices operating in 3 countries. Our Philippine Contact Center operations is currently in need of:

OUTBOUND CALL CENTER AGENTS

For the strategic marketing campaign of our North American clients.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

- Proficient in Conversational English
- Presentable, hardworking and persistent
- Preferably Single
- Fresh Grads are welcome
- Willing to work on graveyard shift
- Not more than 30 years of age
- Marketing/Sales experience is a plus

Applicants may submit their resume and recent picture at the lobby of:

Virra Bldg. # 500 P. Burgos St. Corner Makati Ave. Makati City.

or EMAIL your resume to: hr@bcsinfosystems.com

All qualified Applicants shall be notified thru telephone for interview schedule. Basic Salary, Business Allowances plus Daily, Weekly & Monthly Incentives are ascertained to successful applicants.

ACCOUNTANT & OFFICE CLERK

- ☐ FEMALE WITH PLEASING PERSONALITY
- ☐ 20 TO 24 YEARS OLD
- ☐ SINGLE
- ☐ COLLEGE GRADUATE & COMPUTER LITERATE
- ☐ FLUENT IN ENGLISH BOTH ORAL & WRITTEN

CALL 886-08-01 TO 08
LOOK FOR MONET

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

St. Catherine Realty Corporation (SCRC), awarded by Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) as the leading Developer of the Year 2003 (open housing category) is in need of the following personnel:

- ■ **Two (2) Licensed Civil Engineer**
  Position : (1) Project Engineer & (1) Office Engineer
  Experience - 5 years minimum experience in project implementation of subdivision development and other related subdivision construction works (for project engineer)
  Experience: - 5 years minimum experience in preparation of design, estimates, specification & contract doc. (for ofc eng'r.)
- ■ **One (1) Accountant & Two (2) Accounting Clerk**
  Experience - With at least 3 yrs. exp in general accounting
- ■ **One (1) System Administrator (Computer Eng'g or Comp. Science graduate)**
  Experience - With at least 3 yrs. exp. in programming & networking
- ■ **Two (2) Sales Office Marketing Staff**
  Position: Office Marketing Officer
  Experience: - 1 year Clerical/Marketing Experience
- ■ Assignment: Angeles City (main office), Pampanga & Bulacan

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IMMEDIATE HIRING

FOR MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES

MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

- ➲ Male, License not required
- ➲ Fresh grad or with experience in production

SALES

- ➲ With experience in food bus. (fast food or restaurant)
- ➲ Preferably college level of HRM or Food Tech
- ➲ Male or Female, 5'2" in height
- ➲ With computer skills
- ➲ With cooking skills or knowledge

FASHION CONSULTANTS

- ➲ Female, 5'3" in height
- ➲ Fair and slim with pleasing personality

Apply personally at:

3F Sentro Kapitolyo Bldg., 59 West Capitol Drive,
Barrio Kapitolyo, Pasig City
Tel. No. 747-2222.Bring bio-data.

JOB Market ONLINE
VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com
JOB Market

Hotel PonteFino BATANGAS CITY

A Business Hotel with De Luxe Facilities in Batangas City

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

(Manila and Batangas-Based

- With at least two years hotel or pensionne house sales experience
- Possesses excellent people and communication skills
- Enjoys field work; has a good network of clients/contacts.
- Graduate of any four-year course preferable business-related
- Female; not more than 32 years old.

Qualified applicants can send their resumés to:

HR Management Group
24th Floor, IBM Plaza
Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City

Human Resources Department
Hotel Pontefino
Pastor Village Gulod Labac,
Batangas City

Or you may email us at
hrd@pontefino.com.ph

May we request applicants to enclose a 2 x 2 photo, transcript of records and certificates of previous employment
(Positions available up to January 29, 2005)

A PROGRESSIVE AND DYNAMIC COMPANY URGENTLY NEEDS THE FOLLOWING:

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT (CODE: CA)

- ➢ Male/Female
- ➢ Must be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- ➢ Minimum of (3) years experience in all facets of accounting procedures
- ➢ Well versed in all aspects of accounting documents, methods, procedures and government reporting requirements
- ➢ Efficient with pertinent computer software & applications
- ➢ Excellent communication & leadership skills
- ➢ With Good Moral Character & can work under pressure

JR. ACCOUNTANTS (CODE: JRA)

- ➢ Female – 21 to 27 years of age
- ➢ New graduates of Accountancy
- ➢ Above-average oral & written communication skills
- ➢ Can work with minimum supervision
- ➢ Computer Literate
- ➢ Detail Oriented

CREDIT AND COLLECTION OFFICER (CODE: CCO)

- ➢ Male / Female – 21 to 27 years of age
- ➢ College Graduate, preferably with a degree in Accountancy, Finance, Business Administration, Management or Marketing
- ➢ Computer Literate
- ➢ Previous experience gained from collection agencies or similar Industries will be an advantage
- ➢ Detail Oriented
- ➢ Willing to do field work

HR OFFICER (CODE: HRO)

- ➢ A Degree in Behavioral Science, Psychology or Industrial Relations
- ➢ Minimum of (3) years experience (gained from the Manpower Service Industry would be an advantage)
- ➢ Thorough working knowledge of all aspects of HR functions
- ➢ Detail Oriented & Results Oriented
- ➢ Computer Literate
- ➢ Excellent oral & Written Communication Skills

Please send your comprehensive resumé to: (Please indicate code on the envelope)

P.O. Box 154
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Floor Bldg. B SM-Megamall, EDSA
Mandaluyong City
e-mail: sm_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

A Warehouse and Distribution Firm

is in need of the following:

WAREHOUSE SPECIALIST

(Supervisor) (Code WS)

and

DISTRIBUTION SPECIALIST

(Supervisor) (Code DS)

- > College Degree Holder
- > Computer Literate
- > Detail Oriented and can work with minimum supervision
- > With at least 2 years previous work experience gained from the food industry (preferably the top burger chains)
- > With expertise in the operation and maintenance of an effective warehouse and or distribution system

Please send your resumé with a 2 x 2 picture to:
(pls. indicate code on the envelope)

BOX NUMBER: 153
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
5th Flr. Bldg-B, SM Megamall, Edsa
Mandaluyong City

e-mail your resume: risaac@inquirer.com.ph

WANTED: TEACHERS FOR THE U.S.A.

Our principal, E-WorldStaffing.com, based in Delaware, USA is in need of teachers for placement throughout the states of California, Maryland and Virginia, USA

We have placed more than 250 Filipino Teachers in the US in the last 18 months! With the best yet to come! More than 350 new teaching positions need to be filled in the next 3 months!

TEACH IN AMERICA

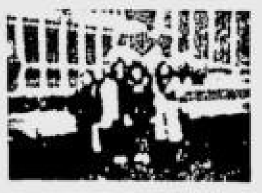
The BIGGEST Teacher Recruitment for the U.S!

They are in need of teachers for the following subjects:

Special Education
Mathematics
Chemistry
Biology
Physics
General Science
English as Second Language (ESL)
Elementary Education
Industrial/Technology Education
Physical Education

Qualifications:

Bachelor's Degree plus at least 18 units in Education
Minimum 2 years of teaching experience
Good oral & written English communication skills
Basic computer skills is a plus



Our teachers in New York City now on their second successful year

SPED Teachers who were interviewed and hired in August 2004 now teaching in Loudoun County Virginia. Photo w/ Prof. Diana Moore of Shenandoah University of Virginia USA

E-World Staffing Services
(POEA Lic 007-LB-041604-UL)
Suite 2105 Prestige Tower
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center
Pasig City, Philippines 1605
Tel. (02) 914-3000

FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY
NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED

This is the opportunity that you don't want to miss!

All interested applicants must bring or mail the following requirements:

1. Updated resume with one 2x2 ID picture
2. Clear photocopy of your Official Transcripts of records (college and higher education if applicable)
3. Photocopy of your diploma (college and higher education if applicable)
4. Photocopy of your PRC License (if applicable)
5. Photocopy of your driver's license (if applicable)
6. Photocopy of Marriage License (for female applicants only)

Place all your documents inside a legal size brown envelope and send it to the address indicated in this ad. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR PAPERS IMMEDIATELY FOR EARLY ASSESSMENT. We accept walk-in applicants from Mondays to Saturdays, 9am to 7pm only.

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sportshouse

is in need of

BRANCH SUPERVISOR

- Male / Female, college graduate
- Willing to be assigned in any branch nationwide
- Responsible, trustworthy, can work with minimum supervision
- Must possess strong leadership skills
- At least one year experience in retail / sales operation

MARKETING ASSISTANT

- Male / Female, graduate of any four year course major in marketing
- Must possess creativity and a pleasing personality
- Has good communication and marketing skills

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Female, Graduate of BS Accountancy or BSC Accounting Major
- Minimum of two years experience in general accounting
- Resourceful, highly motivated and can work with minimum supervision
- Proficient in computer

PURCHASING STAFF

- Male / Female, college graduate
- Has a good oral and written communication skill
- Proficient in computer

Please send your resumé with 2x2 pictures at:

Sportshouse Human Resource Department
Golden Tree Mansion # 74 Ignacio Santos
Diaz Avenue (formerly Banahaw St.)
Cubao, Quezon City

Operations / Warehouse Supervisor

- Male / female, 30-35 years old
- Must have at least 3 yrs. experience in Warehouse / Operations work
- Must have at least 3 yrs. experience in handling personnel

Administrative Assistants

- Female/Male 25-33 years old
- Result-oriented, dedicated, organized
- Have at least 3 yrs. experience in administrative duties
- Good in oral and written English & Tagalog

Sales Secretaries

- Female, 24-30 years old
- Aggressive, articulate and has initiative
- Has at least 3 years in sales experience

Office Secretary

- Female, not over 35 yrs old
- Computer literate / proficient in typing
- 2-3 yrs experience in all aspects of secretarial job.
- very good oral & written communication skills

MAIL OR SUBMIT RESUMÉ BEFORE JAN. 16 TO:
2840 ZAMORA ST., PASAY CITY

(Include pictures, details of work experience, transcript of grades, contact number prof. landline and other supporting papers)

MICROCADD TECHNOLOGIES

An Award Winning CAD & CAE Training Center
A One Stop Digital Printing & Imaging Center is in need of...
(For Metro Manila and Pampanga Branches)

- **CAD Instructors**
- **STAAD Instructors**
- **3DS VIZ Instuctors**
- **3DS MAX Instructors**
- **Revit Instructors**
- **Sales Personnel**
- **Marketing Officers**
- **Graphic Artists**

All Instructor Applicants please send resume. Other applicants interview will be on Dec. 28, Tuesday 1 - 3 pm
5/F Doña Consolacion Bldg., 602 Gen. Santos Ave., Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City

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DAVID'S SALON

THE BEST IN EUROPEAN HAIRDRESSING

ASSISTANT SALON MANAGERS

- 21 to 30 years old, personable & presentable
- Female
- Preferably single
- Graduate of any Business Course
- Minimum of 1 year managerial experience
- Flexible in work hours
- Excellent leadership and interpersonal skills
- Results oriented
- Can work well under pressure
- Trustworthy
- with good communication skills
- willing to be assigned to any branch available

INVENTORY CONTROLLERS

- Minimum of 1 year experience in stock, warehousing, receiving and visual merchandising
- A keen eye on product quality
- A sense of ownership
- Security conscious
- willing to be assigned to any branch available

SENIOR HAIRSTYLISTS

- Preferably Gay
- 25-35 yrs old
- Personable and smart
- At least three years of professional salon experience
- Willing to work long hours
- willing to be assigned to any branch available

MANICURIST

Female
18-35 yrs old.
at least one year of professional salon experience
willing to work long hours
willing to be assigned to any branch available

Please come in their business office from Mondays to Wednesdays everyweek, at 9:00 - 11:30 am. Bring your comprehensive resume, 2x2 picture and other credentials to the address below:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
DAVID'S SALON INC.
DSI Bldg., 1251 Cardona St.,
JP Rizal Makati City

A Leading provider of customer care solutions has a need for:

Retired Military General

to act as coordinator and to oversee the day to day operation

Submit your resume with 2x2 picture to:

HR Department, 8th Floor Net One Center
26th St., cor. 3rd Ave. Crescent, Parkwest
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila
Trunk line: 811-7400

URGENT!

We need the following:

- *Project Managers*
- *Marketing Managers*
- *Account Manager / Executives*
- *Sales / Marketing Personnel*
- *System Analysts*
- *System / Network Administrator*
- *Network Engineer*
- *Database Administrator*
- *Web Programmers (ASP, ASP.net, JAVA)*
- *Web Developers*
- *Art Director (With Graphic Studio or Agency experience)*
- *Graphic Designer*
- *Copy Writers*
- *Computer Engineering / Technician / Trainor*
- *Computer Secretary*
- *Accounting Personnel*
- *Telemarketing*
- *Receptionist*

Qualifications:

- *Degree in Information Technology or any computer studies, or any course relevant to the position applied for*
- *Fulltime and can work overtime*
- *3 years experience in related field*
- *Masters degree is a plus for managerial position*

1st IT CENTER
FIRST INTERACTIVE CENTER
1st Interactive Center, 7373 Bakawan Street,
San Antonio Village Makati City, Philippines 1200

WANTED ENGLISH TEACHERS

Are you experienced in Quality?
Are you passionate about passing on your knowledge and experience to others? We are looking for the right people to successfully teach and motivate students to learn English.

Successful applicants will need to be well organized, flexible and have excellent management skills.

Please send your resumé and transcript of records to us.

For more information, please call

3-LINES.LLC
Tel.: (02) 914-0393 Fax: (02) 632-0879
19F Strata 2000 Emerald Ave.,
Ortigas Center

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE

FOR RETAIL OUTLET

- M/F 30-40 YEARS OLD
- COLLEGE GRADUATE
- WITH EXPERIENCE IN RETAIL MANAGEMENT
- FOR PROVINCIAL ASSIGNMENT (NUEVA ECIJA & ALBAY)

APPLY WITH RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS OR DIPLOMA, AND MOST RECENT 2x2 ID PICTURES TO 849 RETIRO ST. COR. ARANETA AVE., STA. MESA HEIGHTS, QUEZON CITY

Canon

Canon Information Technologies Philippines, Inc. (ci-tech), one of Canon's largest Product R&D center in the world, develops products and technologies for imaging and networking. We seek to recruit engineers and other positions for our current and future projects. Comprehensive training programs and overseas travel opportunities await qualified employees. Attractive compensation packages offered.

Software Engineers

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Engineering, Computer Science, IT or any related course
- Responsible for software development for future Canon products such as printers, copiers, and digital cameras
- Must have strong programming skills using C, C++, and Java
- Knowledgeable in algorithms, data structures and operating system concepts

Administrative Assistants

- College graduate, preferably holding a Bachelor of Science degree
- Responsible for administrative tasks such as writing communications, data encoding and report generation, file management and other related activities
- Must be proficient in Microsoft Excel, Word and other Windows applications
- Hardworking and Team-oriented
- Contract positions also available

Please send a copy of your comprehensive resume with recent passport-size photo and Transcript of Records to

Canon Information Technologies Philippines, Inc.
Human Resources Department
2nd Floor Techno Plaza One, 18 Orchard Road
Eastwood, Quezon City 1110

Or e-mail your resume and Transcript of Records to recruitment@citech.com.ph

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●●● Advertising & Marketing Communication Companies

Need **EXPERIENCED & MOTIVATED PEOPLE**
in the fields of

ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT
ART DIRECTION
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY // DATABASE MANAGEMENT
ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

Beginnings Communications, Inc.
eNAV Logistics Management Services, Inc.

5/F Remco Tower
61 West Capitol Drive, Kapitolyo Pasig
Tel. 6389478 • Fax 6872861

GHS

Global Healthcare Staffing

NURSES

GHS recruits and offers placement of nurses seeking residence and employment in the united States

We provide a comprehensive transition program and a complete benefits package!

REQUIREMENTS

- Recent relevant acute care experience minimum of one year in a specialty
- Enlgish language fluency – TOEFL/TSE or IELTS certification or are planning to take the exams
- CGFNS evaluation or equivalent
- Professional references
- NCLEX status

GHS OFFERS

- Green card sponsorship
- Competitive salaries
- Medical and Dental benefits
- Paid vacation and sick time
- Exam reimbursements (CGFNS, TOEFL, TSE, IELTS, NCLEX)
- Housing and airfare packages
- Much more

For more information about these exciting International programs, please contact:
Tel. No. 001-877-GHS-8200 / Fax No. 001-212-679-7868
philippines@globalstaffing.net

Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism

The Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism is in need of a:

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

The successful applicant should hold a university degree from a reputable university and have professional experience in political or corporate communications. A background in human rights advocacy is an advantage.

We expect excellent written and oral language skills in English and Filipino, experience in designing modern communications tools and Web development.

Applicants should send a cover letter, résumé, and a recent 2x2 picture no later than 18 January 2005 to:

Room 101, APS Building
20 Rockwell Drive, Rockwell Center,
Makati City, 1200

OCW MEDICAL CLINIC, INC.

is looking for:

ACCOUNT/ MARKETING EXECUTIVES

- Female; 21 years of age or above
- College graduate
- Must be self motivated, Aggressive, Result oriented, can work effectively with minimum supervision & willing to do field work
- Must have pleasing personality & proficient in oral & written communication

Compensation is negotiable depending on credentials & experience

Please send or hand carry your comprehensive resumé to:

3F Regent Bldg. 1415 Gen. Luna St.,
Ermita, Manila
Tel. No. 536-4866
Telefax: 523-9176
E-mail:. ocwmedclinic@yahoo.com

HARIBON FOUNDATION

Protecting Nature. Preserving Life.

HARIBON is a membership organization committed to the nature conservation through community empowerment and scientific excellence. It aims to build a constituency for environmental issues that will call for prioritizing conservation actions on habitats and sites, based on solid scientific and socio-economic research. For this year, we invite dedicated professionals to join our growing family to occupy the following positions:

PROJECT MANAGER

- With at least 5 years professional experience as project manager
- Able to negotiate with service providers
- Candidate must have a Bachelor's Degree in Management, Mass Communications or relevant fields
- Preferably with post-graduate degree in related fields or its equivalent
- Proficient in planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation
- Preferably with exposure to non-government institutions and familiarity with the environmental sector
- Willing to travel
- Competent in Strategic Planning, Decision-Making, Conflict Management
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Qualities: Innovative, Leader, Team Player, Collaborative and Full of Initiative

Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resumé with a 2x2 picture to the address below:

ATTENTION: THE HR OFFICER
Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources, Inc.
4/F Fil-Garcia Tower, Kalayaan Avenue cor. Mayaman Street, Diliman, Quezon City

You may also email your resumés to **humanresources@haribon.org.ph** or **director@haribon.org.ph.** Only short-listed candidates will be called for an interview. Walk-in applicants will not be entertained.

Deadline for applications is on January 15, 2005

An International Restaurant based on The Fort is in need of the following:

Cashier (Female)
3 yrs. working experience w/ knowledge in POS system
College graduate
Honest & Hardworking

Dining/Kitchen Supervisor
(Male or Female)
At least 30 yrs old
College graduate
Preferably w/ dining & Kitchen supervisory experience
Willing to work long hours
Very keen on details

Purchaser (Female)
at least 28 years old
college graduate
w/ at least 2 years of work experience as purchaser
honest & hardworking
resourceful

Restaurant Manager
(Male or Female)
At least 30 yrs. old
College graduate
preferably w/ restaurant Management experience
Willing to work long hours
Have good public relation background

Male/Female Dining Staff
1 yr. working experience
College level
w/ good interpersonal skills
Can interact using English
With pleasing personality
At least 5'2" tall (female)
At least 5'6" tall (male)

Kindly submit your resumé with a recent 2x2 picture & indicate your desired position.
Address to
PBSRI = The Human Resources Development
534 Asuncion Street, Gedisco Tower, 4th Floor
Binondo, Manila

RIOFIL CORPORATION

A progressive construction company, is in need of the following personnel:

CIVIL ENGINEERS

Male, 26 to 35 years old, at least 5 years experience gained from building construction, computer proficient, CE license an advantage.

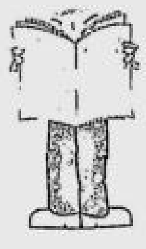
CAD OPERATORS

Male, 28 to 35 years old, BS Architecture graduate, at least 5 years experience in the same capacity using the latest Computer Aided Design Programs.

This is an urgent requirement. Screening & interviews will start on January 3, 2004. Interested parties may send or personally submit their resumé and other pertinent credentials to:

Personnel & General Affairs Department
2802 Antel Global Corp. Ctr.
J. Vargas Ave. Ortigas Center
Pasig City

Where you find the best.



VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

JOB Market

SOCIO ECONOMIC OFFICER

Qualifications:

- Male/Female, 21-28 years old
- College Graduate / Level
- With or Without Experience
- Trustworthy & Hardworking
- Willing to be assigned in the field
- Willing to serve the poor

Interested applicant can submit their resumé with 2x2 picture and other related credentials to:

The Administrative Officer
KASAGANA KA Microfinance Institution, Inc.
#9 Don Rafael St., Don Enrique Heights,
Commonwealth Ave., Holy Spirit, Quezon City
Tel. # 931-4335

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

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The world of work according to Dana

By Dana MVC
Contributor

Chapter 7

Writing Escapade

IN BETWEEN minutes and seconds of the day in the office, it was crucial to take time to dream.

File after file of prose filled up my personal folder in the computer. Every genre was represented, many action-packed or completely surreal. These were my most celebrated hours combined, and they effectively defeated boredom, especially the temptation to chat with friends using the company phone.

As I was enjoying doing this without the knowledge of the Big Bosses, I would frequently wonder whether my colleagues had finally entrusted me with their friendship.

Somehow, I've felt there were hidden adversaries creating an unspoken tension challenging the significance of my existence. My friend was right. They could never disappear. But I had come to understand the rewards of ignoring this instinctive feeling ... and it was always a struggle.

To keep myself sound and sane, I concentrated on my career growth. I would be turning 25 two years from now and something important should already begin happening to me. But I couldn't clearly figure out what.

I managed to take an MA program at a reputable university while keeping my job. The leftover brutes frowned at this move. But not the Big Bosses. As expected, the latter wished me well without rewarding my self-enriching efforts with a favorable lift in job status. I was disappointed. The following year, I stopped studying, realizing my academic aspirations were half-hearted all along. Here I was garnishing myself with academic prestige, hoping the brutes would stop mocking me with the word "secretary." A lame pursuit.

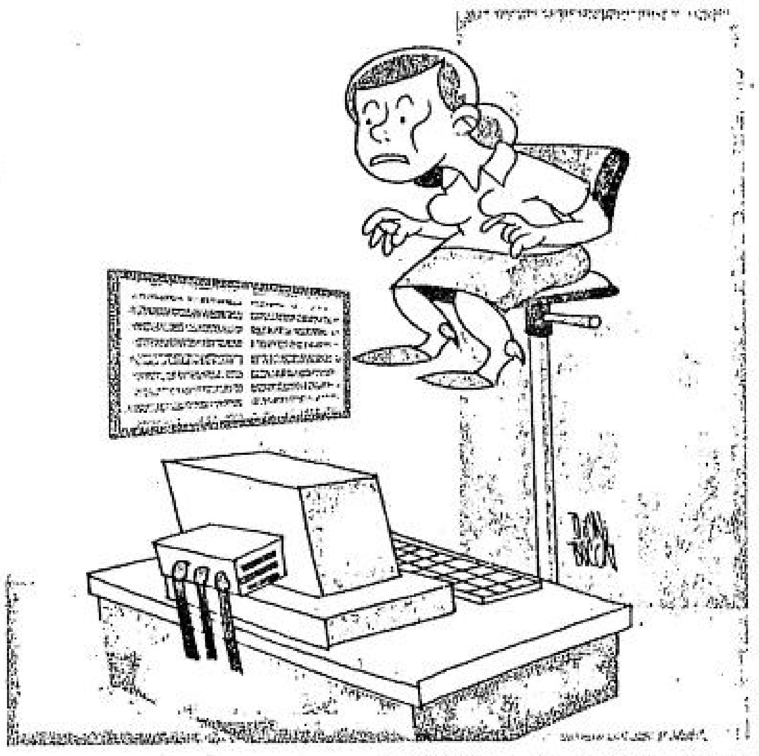
So I went back to writing literary dreams on my computer. I kept typing, striving to end up with a finished piece. Along the way, I again started sending job applications to media-related corporations. I attended the initial interviews, but discontinued reporting for the next batch of screenings. None of them could compare to the combined benefits and salary I was receiving in my present company.

I freaked out, fearing I would forever be indebted to the good life.

Then I realized that one of the reasons I let the brutes bother me all the time was that I myself had been ridiculing my own process of shelving my ambitions. I was getting frustrated at myself. Itching to get out of the company, I got a terrible nightly angst, mulling over when I should make the sacrifice and reach for my dreams head on. Despite my confusion, I still kept on writing. In these brief moments, I was able to relax again. But this was not to last.

In my second year in the company, I took a one-week leave and partnered with a headwriter for a project-based screenwriting job. This perhaps was the break I had long been hankering for.

However, the experience was as thrilling as a nightmare. After finishing the first five required episodes, the producer decided to change the story and asked me to redo the script in less than two days. Pretending to be a long-experienced screenwriter, I regrettably replied with a "yes." After the meeting, I went home and started working on all five episodes immediately. My body was coffee-intoxicated for two days. Dozing off was the last thing I could do. Exhausted, I kept my word and submitted the screenplay on the deadline. The producer was satisfied. The headwriter was extremely proud and grateful. And I was practically half-dead.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

It was no surprise that I got sick soon after that physically "impossible" writing escapade. Yes, I did get through with the challenge, but it never felt like an achievement. It was a foolish acceptance of a project. If I had said "no," then I would not have been exploited that easily.

Back at the office, my life was in place again.

I wondered, how many wrong, hasty decisions would I be making in the future? Would I keep pursuing my dreams or would I stay at a job I didn't like? It was a choice of either fantasy or reality.

After a few months, my grandmother died. My depression with work and my personal life was now in the deepest pits. My grandmother spent all her life fighting for her dreams without entirely achieving it. And, here I am on the same route of uncertainty.

Soon, the Big Bosses decided to grant me both the job promotion and official transfer to the marketing department, just as I had wished for quite some time. But less than a year after receiving that aspired appointment, I resigned.

I decided to face my fear and take a bold step towards my dream career.

Chapter 8

Marred Paradise

Finally, I got a job that interested me. A copywriter at an advertising agency. A very small advertising agency.

The first few days were like déjà *vu*— I was back to working at a "mysterious" small-sized corporation where retrenchment risks were always in the air and hefty salary ambitions were considered futile if not unattainable. I said to myself, have I not learned from my experiences? Then again, I thought, now I have a sensible job and this probably should matter the most.

As hard as I tried to maintain a winning attitude everyday, financial survival was the obtrusive knife cutting my "noble" career focus to bits. The pay in the agency wasn't good, and so all the more I doubted myself for thinking that I had really made the right decision. Money and ambition are just not soul mates, which is why the two find it so hard to meet. I wish one day they would, even by chance, so that I could finally achieve my dream. Definitely that would be the most fateful, awaited day.

At the dinner table back home, my sister Pat congratulated me after hearing the news of my "cerebral" job. My mother, on the other hand, congratulated Pat for finally getting employment for the first time as a stewardess at a prestigious airline company. Here I was on my sixth job and still, I couldn't commit to regularly paying our house rent which my sister would be able to do with just her first paycheck. What progress I was making!

Meantime in the office, other setbacks begun to show up. My boss and most of the staff were in a constant battle— not of ideas but of egos. It became clear to me that teamwork in reality is nothing but a useless belief. Some companies truly foster competitiveness and somehow, I had gotten used to that.

To keep myself going, I invoked the spirit of denial and pretension. I denied the fact that everybody in the office was standing on shaky grounds. I created an illusion of inspiration and warmth from my boss when there were none. I pretended to be excited with my assignments when they were fast becoming routine. I feigned hopes that I could reward myself with independence from home when financially speaking, chances were very dire.

For the longest time, what was very real to me was the fact that progress was never an easy catch. I thought I was moving fast only to find out that I was still far away from the success I wanted. In my heart, I knew that not until I could afford to pay at least three kinds of house bills and find importance, challenge and renewed inspiration with what I am working on everyday, I could never be happy.

Success seemed to come quick and at times effortlessly to other people, and I wondered, with all the energy and potential I was told many times to have, why was it I am still so far from achieving my dreams?

After a year and a half of this uncomfortable situation, I resigned from the small agency and partnered with a friend to start a business of our own.

It was then that my depression deepened and I thought of ending my life.

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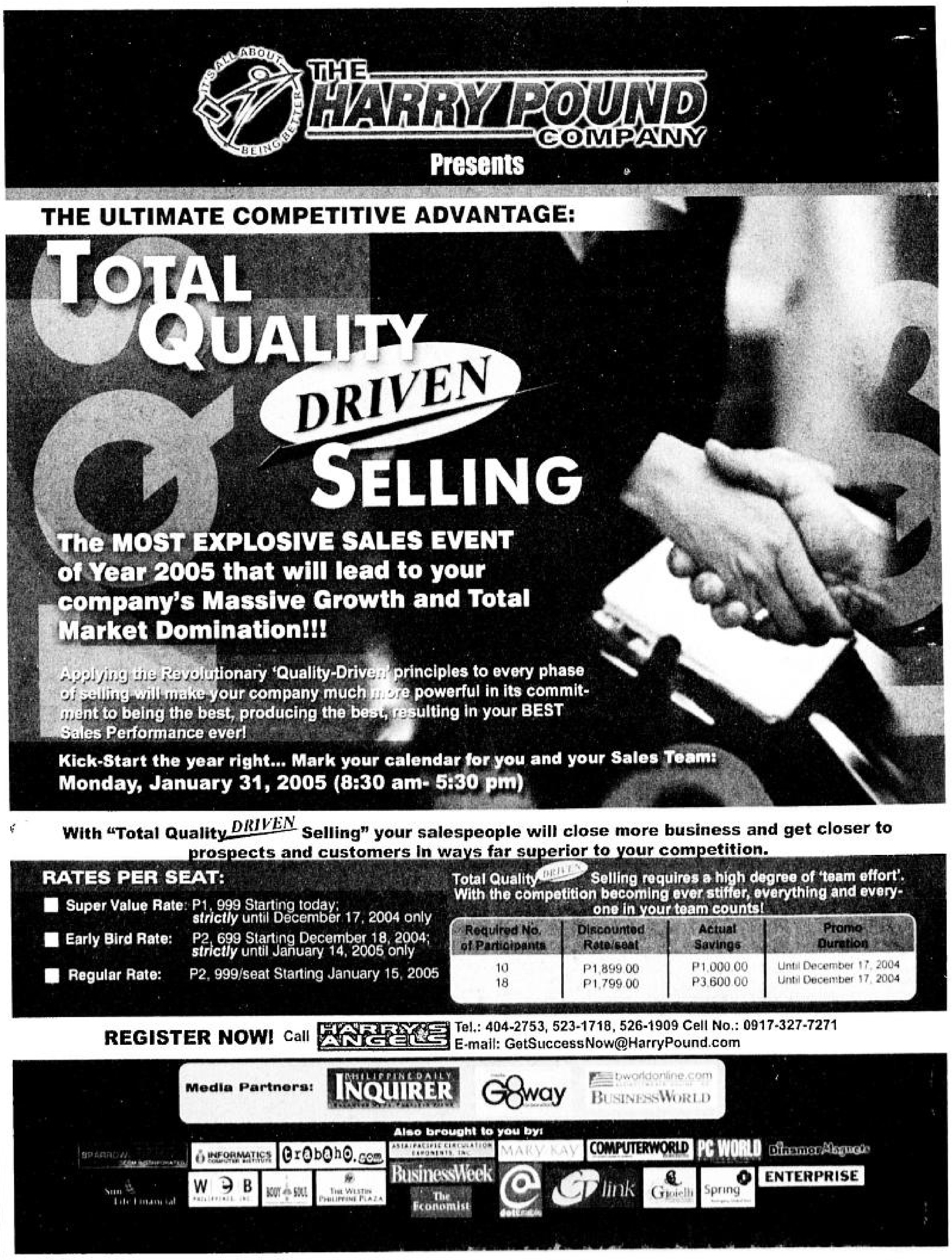

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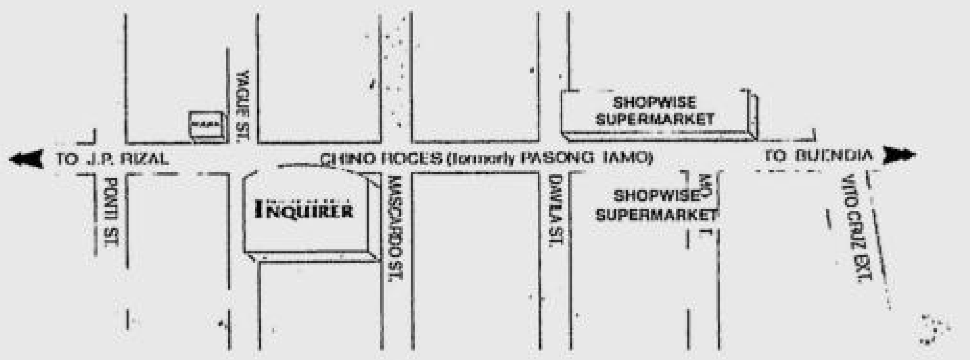

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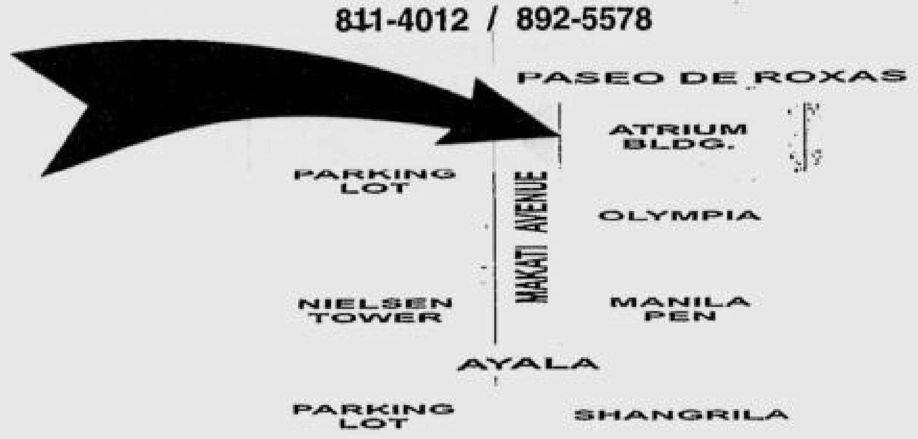

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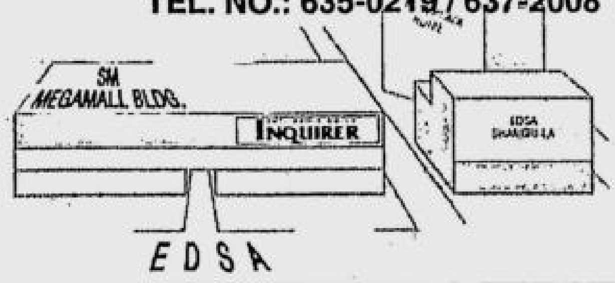

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FREE ASSESSMENT

How do you handle your first job after you've been laid off or fired?

WORKING WOUNDED
Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I just got a new job after being unemployed for a long period after my last job. What can I do to prevent the same thing from happening again?

Back In The Saddle

A Massapequa, NY, high school student set a fire to burn some school papers in which he'd done poorly. As the fire started to really ignite, he got concerned and tossed the burning papers out the window. Unfortunately, some of the embers blew back into the home and the resulting fire gutted the entire second floor.

And that is the unfortunate story for many of us when we take a new job after we've been laid off or fired. We allow the same kind of fires that burned us on the last job to re-ignite again. Below are some tips to help you turn your new job into a fresh start. For more, check out "Career Comeback" by Bradley Richardson (Broadway, 2004).

Do you thank everyone who helped you along the way? This is a personal gripe that I have about most jobseekers. They never go back to the people they've networked with to say "thank you" and tell them when they do get hired. Don't throw away a network that can help you on your new job.

Are you prepared to prove yourself all over again? It's natural after you've been laid off or fired to think that you deserve this second chance. But the business world doesn't work that way. Be prepared to prove yourself all over again; answer people's questions about your work in an upbeat and confident manner. Heck, we all should do a better job of this, even if we haven't been laid off or fired.

Can you focus on what you want to be rather than what you've been? I always think of a new job like the first day of high school or college, as a chance to reinvent yourself. For example, if you had a reputation as someone who constantly interrupted people, learn how to wait until they are done speaking before you open your mouth.

Can you replenish your coffers? It's tempting to go out and celebrate with your first couple of paychecks. There is nothing wrong with a small celebration, but it's important to use the majority of the new cash to replenish the savings that you spent while you were unemployed.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Can you solicit feedback regularly? Anyone who is a regular reader of Working Wounded knows that I'm a feedback junkie. And there is no more important time to get a lot of feedback than when you are easing back into the workforce. So ask for feedback from your boss, from your coworkers, from customers and vendors. And use their feedback to improve continually, making yourself too valuable to let go.

We've all been burned in our careers; you've got a great opportunity to rise from the ashes like a phoenix. Use the tips above so you can fly high.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: Which character is the best role model to adopt when you are starting out on a new job?

—Shell Answer Man, 12.4 percent

—Smokey the Bear, 18 percent

—Casper the Friendly Ghost, 33.5 percent

—Energizer Bunny, 36 percent

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

Other careers in the call center industry

From page 11

telemarketer) some of them move up the management ladder starting with the position of team or shift leader.

Because of the big demand to increase call volume, most call centers do not wait to develop leaders from the ranks of customer service reps or telemarketers but hire from other call center companies those with experience and leadership potentials and install them immediately as team or shift leaders, or as operations managers, or as members of top management.

A team leader has 12 to 18 agents working under him or her. Team or shift leaders are given leadership programs and training in systems to enable them to measure and evaluate their agents' performance and productivity. A team or shift leader develops the agents under them through coaching and counseling, supervises their performance and helps them in handling difficult-to-handle irate customers who demand to "talk to the manager." Also, since "call handling time" (or average length of a call) is a priority of every rep, the team leader must constantly monitor the performance of every rep to ensure that it meets the required "call handling time."

Team/shift leaders are expected to coach their agents and provide tips to them in handling specific situations. Their goal is achieving sales targets and ensuring that every agent meets the quota and even surpass them. To do this, they must continuously motivate, give coaching, provide positive reinforcement and be positive role models. Team leaders are expected to have excellent customer service skills and demonstrate their ability to work well under pressure.

Efficiency and effectiveness of team leaders lead to advancement to higher positions such as to shift managers, to operations managers, and to higher positions in management accompanied by increase in responsibility, accountability and authority with corresponding increase in salaries and wages, perks and benefits.

After reaching top management positions, it is not surprising to find managers going the entrepreneurial path by linking with other US companies and establishing their own call center company, or combining their talents and resources with other colleagues and establish their own call center company.

(Next week: Other professional career paths in the call center companies)

(Josie O. Santamaria was the director of the Career Materials Development Project of De La Salle University where she was also in the faculty of the Graduate School of Education, teaching courses in career counseling and guidance. She is the founding president of the Career Development Association of the Philippines . Presently, she is the president of Career Systems, Inc. the leading provider of a wide array of career development training programs and consulting services in the Philippines. E-mail feedback to carsys@qinet.net.*)*

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3. Requirements
- Must be a graduate of any four-year course from a reputable university
- Must be 21 to 35 years old, aggressive and hardworking
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- Must have strong, persuasive presentation skills
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Is married life better when both spouses work?

By Gina M. Hechanova

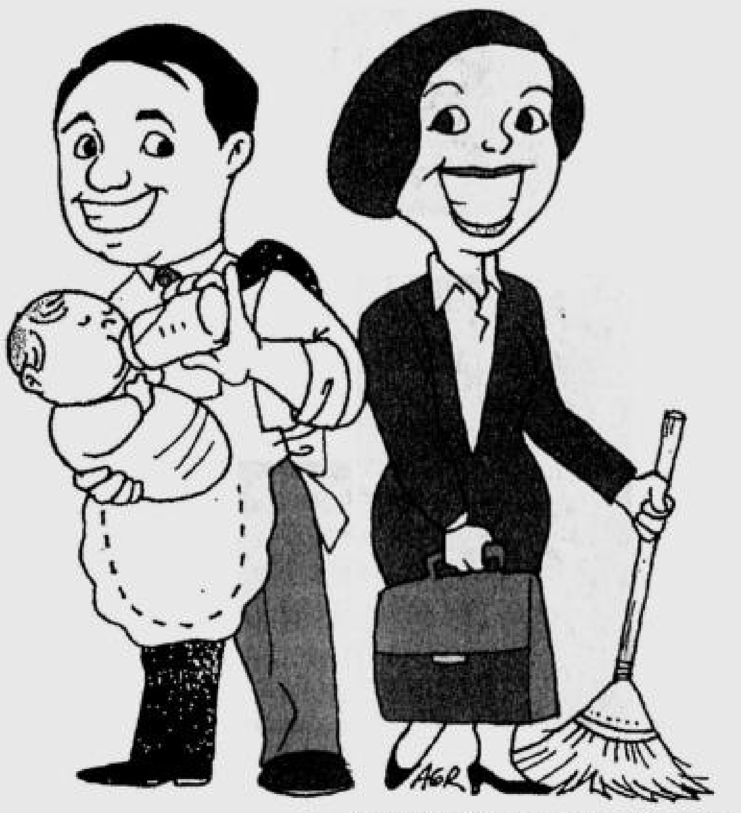

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

BE IT OUT of necessity or desire to have a career, more women are entering the workplace. Twenty years ago, one out of three women worked. Today, more than half of Filipina women work. Not surprisingly, almost 40 percent of Filipino couples have dual-careers. On the surface, dual-career couples appear to be the ultimate signal of equality between the sexes. In such cases, both men and women share responsibilities both for financial and family responsibilities—a true partnership. Or is it?

Decision-making and responsibilities

A study by Yugie Murillo of the Ateneo de Manila University in 2003 suggests that dual careers may not necessarily mean equality. In her study of middle-income, dual-career couples, she found that on one hand, decision-making of husband and wife was practically equal. Most decisions, like what school the children should go to, whether to use birth control, budgeting of family expenses, whether to hire a helper, which doctor or hospital to go to when a family member is sick, what appliance to buy, were made jointly by both husband and wife. The wives were the main decision-maker only with regard to what groceries to buy.

This equality, however, was not reflected in actual chores. Women were still mainly responsible for majority of household responsibilities such as cleaning the house, laundry, preparing meals, shopping for food and supplies. The only task that husbands appeared to be mainly responsible for is cleaning the garage.

Equality and satisfaction

Does equality mean greater marital satisfaction? Based on the study, the answer is yes—but only for women. That is, women who experienced equality in decision-making and household chores also reported greater satisfaction with the marriage. On the other hand, for their husbands, marital satisfaction had no relationship with the distribution of responsibilities or decision-making. That equality is more important for women than it is for men is not surprising given that it is women who appear to shoulder the greater burden of juggling work and family.

Gender role attitudes

But perhaps more interestingly, Murillo's study also shows women's gender roles do influence their level of satisfaction. Dual career wives who believed in equality and interchangeability of roles between men and women were more satisfied with their marriages than women who believed in the traditional roles of men as breadwinners and women as homemakers. Perhaps the difference in these women is that for the former, work is a choice rather than a burden.

Helping working moms

What the study suggests is the mom who wants to juggle work and career does find herself in a double bind. On one hand, these women are happier when they work. However, in our culture, it does appear that household chores are still the domain of women—even when they are sharing the responsibility of providing for the family.

Given all these, how can we help working moms? Employers can also do their share in easing the burden of working moms via implementing programs to help them balance work and life. In addition, schemes such as flexitime, work sharing, and telecommuting are other options that may be made available to working parents.

However, gender roles and equality is a complex cultural phenomenon. We need to reflect on our child-rearing practices and see whether we are giving more household responsibilities to our daughters rather than our sons. We need to look at the media and how it portrays moms and husbands in their still traditional roles. We also need to look at schools and how they are socializing our children on gender roles.

But beyond the workplace and society, the most obvious answer to the question lies within the marriage. The study reveals that although decision-making between husband and wife appears to be shared, equality is not reflected in actual household responsibilities. This means that working moms should assert their needs more and negotiate with their husbands to start taking on more responsibilities for household chores. If at all, the study should also be a wake-up call to husbands that if they care about the happiness of their wives, they must be willing to shift roles and responsibilities towards equality in the marriage.

(Dr. Hechanova teaches psychology and is the director for Research and OD at the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development or Ateneo CORD. Send feedback to rhechanova@ateneo.edu.*)*

Other careers in the call center industry

By Josie O. Santamaria

A is for apə́l
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ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

IN MY previous two columns published in the Sunday Inquirer on Dec. 12 and Dec. 26, 2004, I provided information on careers in sales and marketing in the call center industry in response to queries from five readers who had written me for such career information to find out if they have a future in this sunrise industry.

Valid and accurate career information is important in making logical decisions about jobs and careers. One important reason we have thousands of unemployed and underemployed college graduates is because they had taken courses in the wrong careers. They had little information about themselves and inadequate information about the careers they had chosen. Very often, students choose a career based on its popularity among their peers, and prospect of employment abroad. We have no valid, accurate and up-to-date information about careers, about trends in employment, and schools have no assessment instruments to help students determine their suitability for the careers they are considering.

Because the call center industry is possibly the brightest sunrise industry in our country, the comprehensive response I have given is meant to attract people with the proper mindset, with the right career interests, skills and aptitudes, motivation and values to motivate them to build their careers in this industry.

The call center industry has the capability to provide thousands of jobs to college graduates, and even to undergraduates, and to employees who are looking for bigger and better challenges, better opportunities for personal growth and career advancement, and better income. Our country has great potentials to be the leader in this multi-billion dollar global business process and IT services outsourcing industry. More and more US companies show preference for the Philippines because of lower costs, and for Filipinos because of better proficiency in English and ability to learn the American style of communicating in English, our better-than-others' customer service orientation, and our affinity to the American culture. This will create hundreds of thousands of jobs in all functional areas and at all levels. This is great news considering that our colleges and universities graduated no less than 400,000 students last year! This number is added to the hundreds of thousands who are unemployed and a greater number who are underemployed.

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

While we complain of brain and brawn drain, call center companies keep our young, intelligent and talented people here. Call center companies compete with one another not only in getting more business but in attracting and retaining the right people by offering higher positions, bigger salaries, better perks and benefit packages. Presently there are 70 call center companies which are situated in the Metro Manila area. Expansion is expected this year to Cebu, Subic/Clark, Baguio, Davao, Bacolod, Dumaguete and Iloilo.

In the first part of my career advice which appeared in the Sunday Inquirer, Dec. 12, 2004, the work of a customer service rep and an outbound agent (telemarketer) were described. These are jobs that are in great demand because of the following reasons: fast turnover, new call center companies are being opened due to big demand of clients in the US; continuous expansion of call center companies due to increasing volume of business. The article also described the recruitment process for hiring customer service reps and telemarketers and the basic requirements by call center companies for those they will hire for these positions.

The second part of my career advice which was published in the Sunday Inquirer, Dec. 26, 2004, described the rigorous training given to the newly-hired reps and telemarketers to make them proficient and self-confident in their jobs, and listed the other requirements such as personality and character traits. The challenges, problems and concerns; benefits and needs satisfied; and the work environment were also described.

In this third part, the career path in sales and marketing and other careers in the call center industry will be briefly described.

Career path in sales and marketing. Call center reps or telemarketers who find that their career interests, their intrinsic and extrinsic needs, skills and potentials fit the nature of the work, working conditions, rewards and unique challenges have a great career for them in the call center industry. From the entry-level positions, (e.g. customer service rep or

OTHER/P.10

Affirmation

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

EMPLOYERS or supervisors are sometimes at a loss in finding the reasons for bad or poor performance of workers. They would identify many factors as possible causes for below average ratings of workers. One factor, which often escapes their analytical view, is affirmation given to workers—or the lack of it. They pay greater attention to external motivators such as higher pay, material benefits and privileges, vacation packages, and others, as sufficient and powerful incentives for greater industriousness and dedication of workers, and increase in their productivity. Researches, however, show that internal motivators are more powerful push factors for workers to achieve better and greater work efficiency. Among these internal motivators is the sense of being affirmed in one's job, or a feeling of being "well pleased" by the significant others.

The housemaid of a friend of mine has stayed and worked for more than 40 years because according to her, "I feel at home and my employer is happy with my work and consider me as one of her family." The executive vice president of the school I manage has grown up with the school and served faithfully and efficiently for so many years until now for he feels affirmed in his responsibilities.

Knowing and feeling appreciated and affirmed by one's employer or coworkers in the workplace will make everyone do his best in the job. Moreover, believing that God, the Giver of life, is pleased with the work done well and offered as praise and worship to Him will make the worker work d with a superior motivation. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@sky inet.net)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Words of praise

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

THIS business of pleasing can be a tricky one. A word of praise from the boss is music to a worker's ear. Particularly when the boss is really someone everybody looks up to or is hard to please—wow!—a word of praise from him is practically a pat in the back from God descending through an opening in the clouds!

A word of praise for a job well done is an affirmation and a boost for one's morale. Now—is there a thing as too much affirmation? How much of affirmation can be called just or decent? When does a word of praise become too much? You'd be surprised how many companies have lost good people because words of praise were spoken often—but only spoken.

Take the case of Nestor, general manager in a huge multinational company, XYZ. He started at managerial level and in a few years rose to top position. Everybody thought he was brilliant, and the management showered him with accolades for steering the already mighty company to even greater heights. A simple man who delights in doing his job well, he seemed content that he was someone his family and his company could be proud of. Then one day, he resigned—to accept an offer from a competing company abroad. XYZ made a counter offer by doubling his salary—which only made Nestor feel worse. "If they could afford to give me that—why did they have to wait for me to quit? They were taking advantage of me!"

To be effective, words of praise must be sincere—not just spoken to manipulate others to do one's bidding but backed by sensitivity to the unspoken needs of those we praise. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Gospel - Matthew: 3: 13-17

And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

What's inside

Working Wounded: How do you handle your first job after you've been laid off or fired? p.10

The world of work according to Dana p.8

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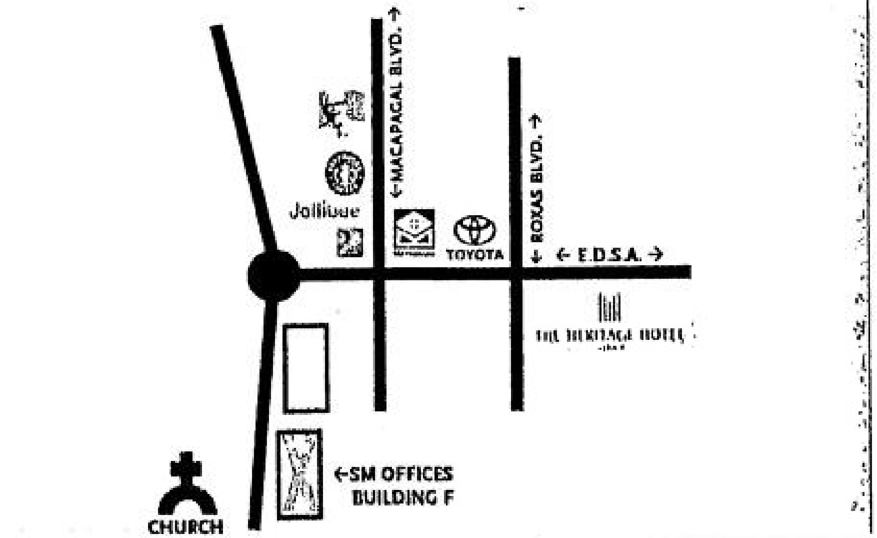
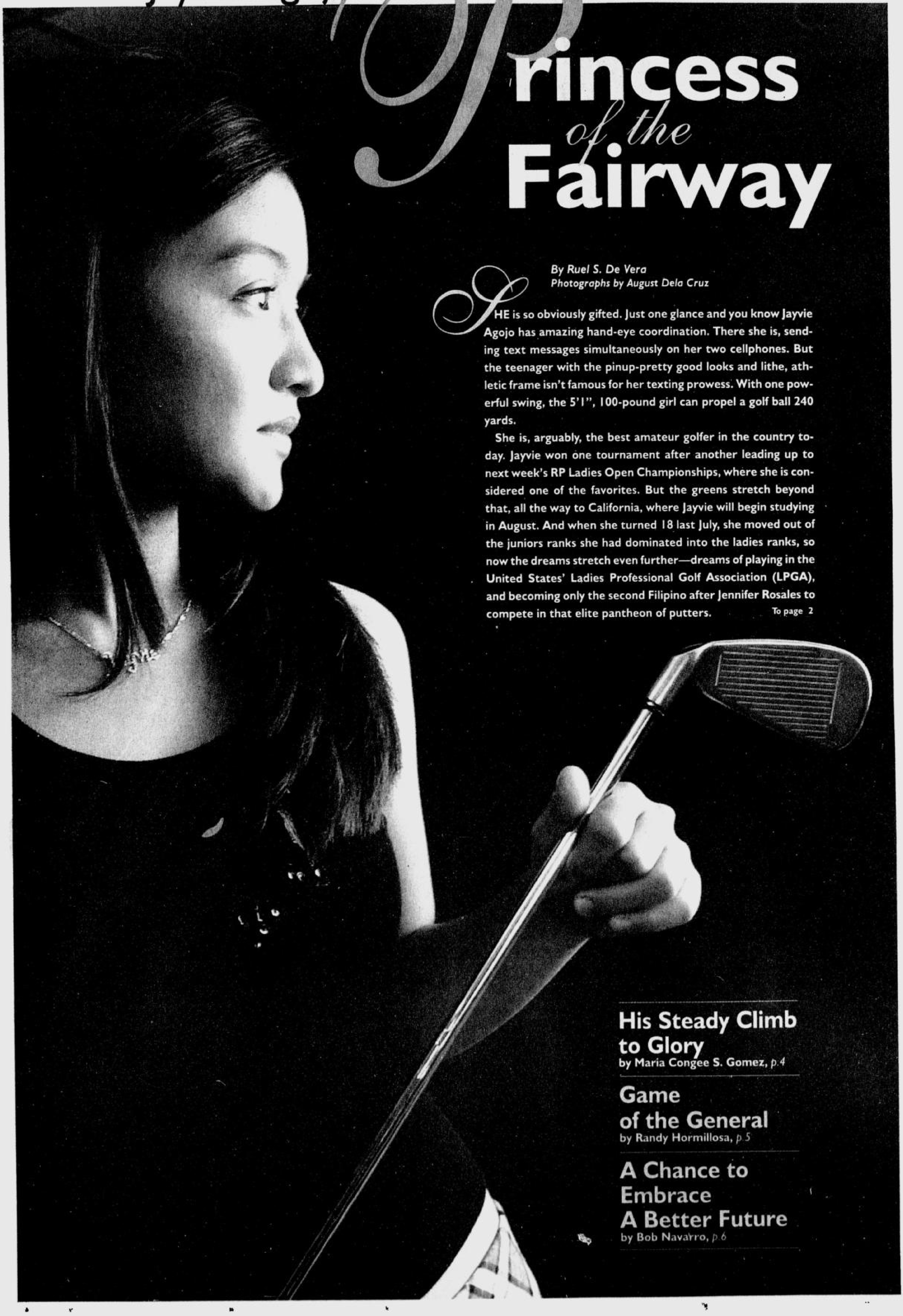


sunday
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
magazine
January 9, 2005

This pretty and talented teener is already one of the country's best golfers, with an extraordinary career that bagged her a US athletic scholarship and may see her all the way to the American ladies' tour. But then, she also wants a life



Jayvie Agojo

Princess of the Fairway

By Ruel S. De Vera
Photographs by August Dela Cruz

SHE is so obviously gifted. Just one glance and you know Jayvie Agojo has amazing hand-eye coordination. There she is, sending text messages simultaneously on her two cellphones. But the teenager with the pinup-pretty good looks and lithe, athletic frame isn't famous for her texting prowess. With one powerful swing, the 5'1", 100-pound girl can propel a golf ball 240 yards.

She is, arguably, the best amateur golfer in the country today. Jayvie won one tournament after another leading up to next week's RP Ladies Open Championships, where she is considered one of the favorites. But the greens stretch beyond that, all the way to California, where Jayvie will begin studying in August. And when she turned 18 last July, she moved out of the juniors ranks she had dominated into the ladies ranks, so now the dreams stretch even further—dreams of playing in the United States' Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA), and becoming only the second Filipino after Jennifer Rosales to compete in that elite pantheon of putters.

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His Steady Climb to Glory
by Maria Congee S. Gomez, *p.4*

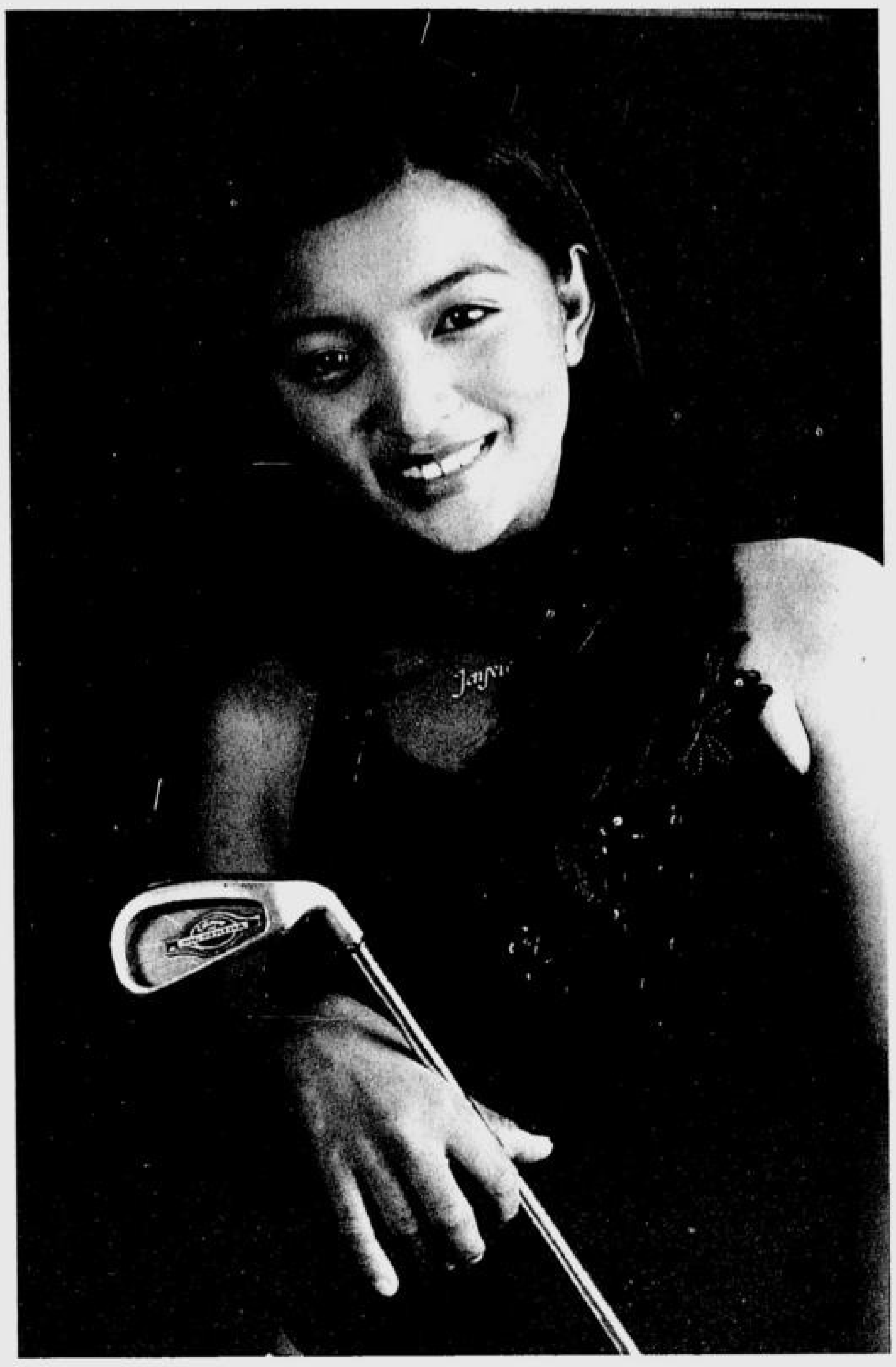
Game of the General
by Randy Hormillosa, *p.5*

A Chance to Embrace A Better Future
by Bob Navarro, *p.6*

Jayvie

...from page 1

Yet to hear her say it, it doesn't sound like she realizes it. *"Magaling ba talaga ako* (Am I really good)?" she actually asks her friends all the time, as if she doesn't believe it. Yet, this young lady has dominated the junior golfing ranks for years. In an era in golfing when young prodigies such as Tiger Woods and Michelle Wie can beat fields far older and more experienced, Jayvie is the Philippines' next ace.



A natural: The pretty , precocious teen is balancing a normal life with a gifted golfer's grind

A lot of talent

The list of events she's topped is so long, nobody can seem to remember all of them. Locally, Jayvie considers her 2004 DHL Open and the Manila Ladies Open her top achievements. Internationally, her biggest win was the 2003 Optimist International Junior Golf Championship in Florida, topping Class A for players ages 16-18. She won in Florida the two years before that as well. Last year, she received the Gawad Kabataan (Sim Sotto Memorial Youth Award) from the Sports Communicators Organization of the Philippines and was cited for her contribution in amateur golf by the Philippine Sportswriters Association.

Swing out sister: Jayvie tees off on her way to victory at November's Manila Ladies Golf Tourney

PDI FILE

INQUIRER Golf Monthly editor Jong Arcano explains Jayvie's talents this way: "On a scale from 1 to 10, I think Jayvie is a very good 6. She just has so much talent she can break par even without serious training. She's now one of the main players of the national team, and she'll stay there, I think, for the next four years. Level 6 is good to be among the best in Asia; if she gets to level 8 she'll be ready for the LPGA." That he adds if she continues to improve, she can do just do that.

Yet it becomes rapidly apparently, like a ball falling from the sky, that she really is still a teenager. Talking to Jayvie feels a lot like channel surfing: She speaks in rapid Taglish, alternating between a slightly bored, distracted restlessness, an irritated, incredulous frustration and spontaneous bursts of excited giggling and emphasis. She says *"wala lang"* a lot. She'll be the first one to admit that she's over-protected. Correction: "super-over," she clarifies. *"Todo.* Everything."

Jayvie Marie Garcia Agojo was born on July 27, 1986 in Los Baños, the youngest of 10 siblings. Her distinctive first name is derived from combining the initials of her parents' nicknames: Ireneo "Jun" Agojo, Jr., and Ma. Victoria "Vicky" Garcia. The Agojos run a talent agency called Champion Integrated Labor Recruitment, Inc.

As a child growing up in Makati, Jayvie savored sports: biking, volleyball, gymnastics. "I wasn't well behaved," Jayvie says with a laugh. *"Magulo, makulit."* It was through sheer serendipity that Jayvie's innate gift for golf was discovered. Jun and Vicky both played golf, and one summer when Jayvie was 9, her mother brought her along to the course at Villamor Air Base. It was just for fun or *"wala lang,* just playing around," as Jayvie says. But the club pro noticed something special. "He told me she had potential. So after that, she joined a summer junior golf tournament," Vicky says. "And she was the champion."

A fateful decision

But for the next few years, Jayvie simply didn't take golf seriously. It was when she turned 12 that the fateful decision was made. In 1998, Jayvie joined the Junior Golf Federation and began training in earnest. She went to her first foreign tournament that year. "She was chosen to represent the country that year and she began to enjoy it, playing three to four times a week," Jun explains. At 14, she switched to the Junior Golf Foundation.

Jayvie went to O.B. Montessori from prep all the way to high school, graduating in 2004. She balanced her studies with golf. On usual days, she would hit the driving range in the afternoon after classes. During preparations for tournaments, Jayvie would play nine holes in the morning, waking up as early as 5 a.m., taking her breakfast in the car, and taking a shower at the club before showing up for 8:30 class.

The unenviable task of dragging Jayvie out of bed every day fell to Jun, the ever-vigilant taskmaster and manager. Jayvie can get impatient sometimes, though she's usually obedient. But she does have a constant tug-of-war relationship with her father. "Super strict" is how Jayvie describes her father. "It's sooo hard to get permission just to go to dinner with friends."

"She's hard-headed," Jun says. He is determined that Jayvie pays attention and learns to prioritize. There are blowups, of course. After giving Jayvie permission to go to Tagaytay, for example, Jun will note that his daughter isn't concentrating during practice and rescind the permission, which utterly exasperates Jayvie. "That's her penalty. I want her to always concentrate on her game," Jun says matter-of-factly. "We have our differences at any time of the day when it comes to her golfing career, but at the end of the day, we're friends again." Yet Arcano points out that one of Jayvie's best advantages is exactly this relationship between father and daughter, comparing it to that between Tiger and Earl Woods.

Truth is, Jayvie didn't see herself as having anything to do with golf. "I wanted to be normal *lang,* maybe varsity player *sa* volleyball sa school plus choir," she says. She also flirted with cheerleading but between golf and her normal schedule, there just wasn't enough time.

In fact, that word "normal" comes up fairly often. It hurts Jayvie that she can't have a life like those of her friends, who can stay out as long as they want. In fact, Jayvie sometimes seems uninterested in golf. She doesn't obsess about it, doesn't keep track of tournaments and victories. "Definitely, *hindi.* Not golf everyday. *Hindi naman ganoon ka*-ex-agg," she says, rolling her eyes. "I really don't feel I'm that good. It's like I'm just playing around." She's impressed by the game of Annika Sorenstam, but doesn't watch golf much on TV.

In her spare time, Jayvie can rattle off a whole range of things she'd rather do: go out with her friends, go to the mall or to the parlor. "If in my spare time, I'd still have to go play golf, *hindi na* (no way)!" Having an understanding group of friends who either figure out a way of hanging out around Jayvie's schedule or hanging out at her house helps. Jayvie won't mince words: She loves gimmicks, to the beach, wherever. She dreams of getting to stay out as late (or as early) as 2 a.m. "But I have a 12 o'clock curfew," she adds with a pout. "I go to parties and then I have to leave just as it's really getting going."

Favorite things

On her own, Jayvie talks a lot on the phone, watches DVDs, chats up a storm on the computer and catches her favorite TV show "Charmed." She loved the tearjerker "The Notebook," unabashedly admitting she cried her eyes out. She's planning to festoon her room's walls with more pictures of her friends, not famous golfers.

But one thing she really enjoys is singing. Jayvie has an impressive set of pipes, and she sings all the time, anywhere. "I even sing at the golf course, even when everybody else is really serious," she says. She loves R&B and love songs; current faves are "If I Ain't Got You" by Alicia Keyes and "My Boo" by Usher and Keyes. Karaoke is a top pastime, even if it's just her and her sister. "Enjoy *na ako noon."*

She's proud of her boyfriend, her boo, so to speak, L.A. Vergara. "When she was about 15, all her friends had boyfriends and so we made a deal," Jun explains. "I said she could have a boyfriend when she reached 18. That very night she turned 18, she introduced her boyfriend to me." Jayvie manages to see him a lot and considers her boyfriend an inspiration instead of a distraction, though she refuses to have him watch her at tournaments. "I feel that I'd get nervous if he were there," she says.

Jun is quite serious about practicing. "I get bored sometimes, and he gets

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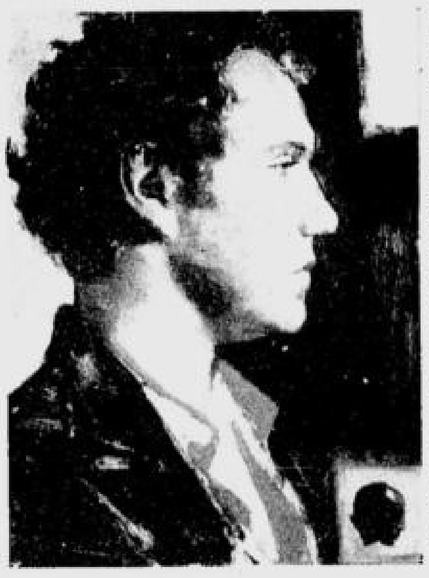
THE Sunday INQUIRER MAGAZINE holds office at Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, with telephone number 897-8808 locals 317 and 318. Mailing address: PO Box 2050, 1099 Manila, Philippines. E-mail: sim@inquirer.com.ph. For press releases, send e-mail to pr_sim@inquirer.com.ph.



MIA'S PORTRAITS

Mia Herbosa will be exhibiting new portraits, all graphite on paper, a few watercolors, oil and select etchings at The Drawing Room, G/F Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City from January 15 to February 7. In photo is "Rugged Red Head," oil on masonite panel. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

Lanterns

The figures are familiar. In childhood's mind
the tassel-tails gather into a sheared hoop
buoyant with the wind's weightlessness.
Whichever way the breeze blows the fringes,
so turns the lantern's face. And the
cut-out shadows lining the light behind
it are the same, line by arc by loop.

Grotesque and graceful, sharp and soft,
the colors merging a counterpoint,
the explosion of light in crafted hues
blurs the vision, roils the mind
now heavy with seasonal surfeit.
Posed for flight, it hangs aloft
fettered still at its starting point.

Petal upon petal, the season grows,
blooms its radiance, blooms monochrome,
through all the shades of light—even
where the crepe is crimson, bloodylike.
In the holiday field's nuances of night
can this dazzling dose
brighten the darkening home?

Gloria Garchitorena-Goloy

Merry on the Fairway at the SMART Christmas Golf Classic

It was a fine day for golf. The cool December weather along with a gentle breeze created a climate reminiscent of SMART tournaments past held in the chilly mists of Baguio Country Club. But this was not Baguio. The 2004 SMART Christmas Golf Classic took place at the Alabang Golf & Country Club recently with close to 200 of the country's elite being invited to this year's exclusive tournament.

Loyal to tradition, the day began with brunch being served. Afterwards, with a shotgun start slated for 10:30am, it was time to tee-off and the golfers trooped to the 18 hole, par 72 course to get this year's SMART Christmas Golf Classic underway.

The tourney had SMART written all over it. From the gigantic golf balls adorned with SMART banners to the SMART Infinity golf lounges scattered around the fairway, this was truly a merchandising wonder ever so tastefully and elegantly executed. It was also the perfect specimen of unparalleled customer care; SMART Infinity subscribers got personalized lockers stuffed with surprises from SMART, ranging from an Odyssey putter to SMART towels, laundry bags and rain covers. All in all, a worthy event meticulously planned by SMART's Julie Carceller.

One could practically smell the spirit of Christmas in every nook and cranny of the course, thanks to "Surprise Santas" on the fairway and the Pick-a-Candy Cane Christmas Tree by tee house number six. Speaking of tee houses, each one even had a special theme and treat, ranging from Oriental to American motifs and, naturally, Christmas. Each SMART Infinity subscriber was assigned a personalized SMART golf cart that came with personalized goodie bags filled with Evian mineral water and granola bars.

An interesting and funny twist to this tournament was the "fun awards", which included an "In the Bunker Award" and "In the Drink Award". Other special awards included the VIP Loyalty Award and the VIP of the Year Award.

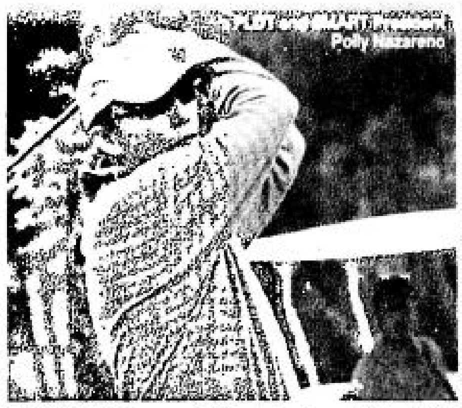
When all 18 holes had been played, a beautiful sunset amid the spectacular garden set up signalled the end of the action on the fairway, but the start of the evening's proceedings. SMART Infinity Brand Ambassador Johnny Litton did what he does best and entertained guests and celebrities throughout the evening. It was a sedately gourmet affair of Crab and Corn soup, a pasta station, a selection of entrées ranging from Paella to Grilled Salmon Fillet and mouth-watering dessert plus fruit platters. Janine Desiderio crooned a few numbers with live music courtesy of Sabor Latino. A children's choir sang beautiful Christmas carols. Ladies were given a bouquet of roses and everyone got a thank you card from SMART Infinity at the end of the event.

Naturally, SMART Infinty subscribers were pampered and treated. 25 cell phones were up for grabs and 25 subscribers indeed went home with one. The 2004 SMART Christmas Golf Classic ended with a dazzling display of fireworks. After all, this is what they were here for. To enjoy life's best.

SMART Infinity

Boy Martirez shares his thoughts on putting Infinity customers ahead

COME
SMART
CHRISTMAS
CLASSIC
12·16·04



PLDT and SMART President Polly Nazareno

SMART
CHRISTMAS
GOLF CLASSIC
AGCI • 12 • 16 • 04

Surprise Santa on the fairway

The Hail Mary the Queen Childrens choir performed Christmas carols.

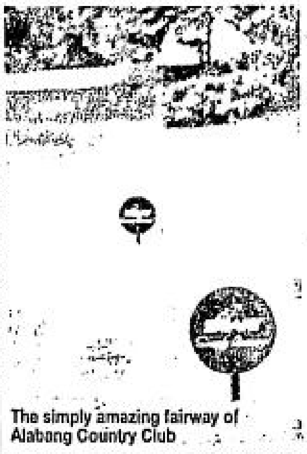
Vernie Varga-Oledan & Jerry Stehmeier

The golf committee with Chairman Julie Carceller

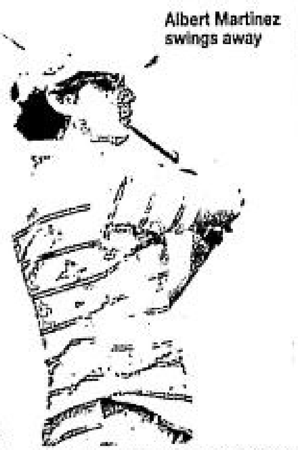
Rene Garcia

The super golf event's surprise guest – [illegible] Pops Fernandez

The Ladies Flight



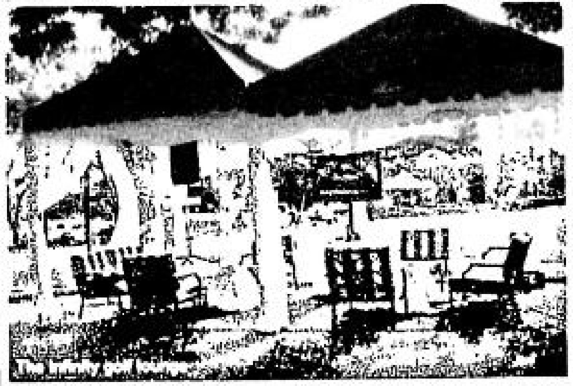
The simply amazing fairway of Alabang Country Club



Albert Martinez swings away

[illegible]

Janine Desiderio



The Infinity golf lounge

The row of SMART golf carts

Ricky Delgado

Vic Sotto contemplates his next shot

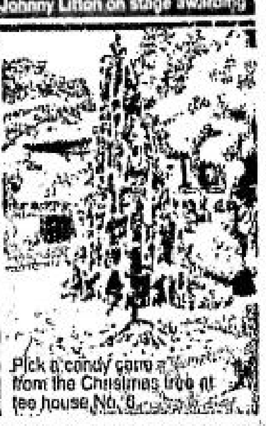
Joyce Jimenez hands out awards for the night

Julie Carceller and Johnny Litton on stage awarding

The sumptous buffet party about to begin

The trophies await the winning golfers

The lush [illegible]

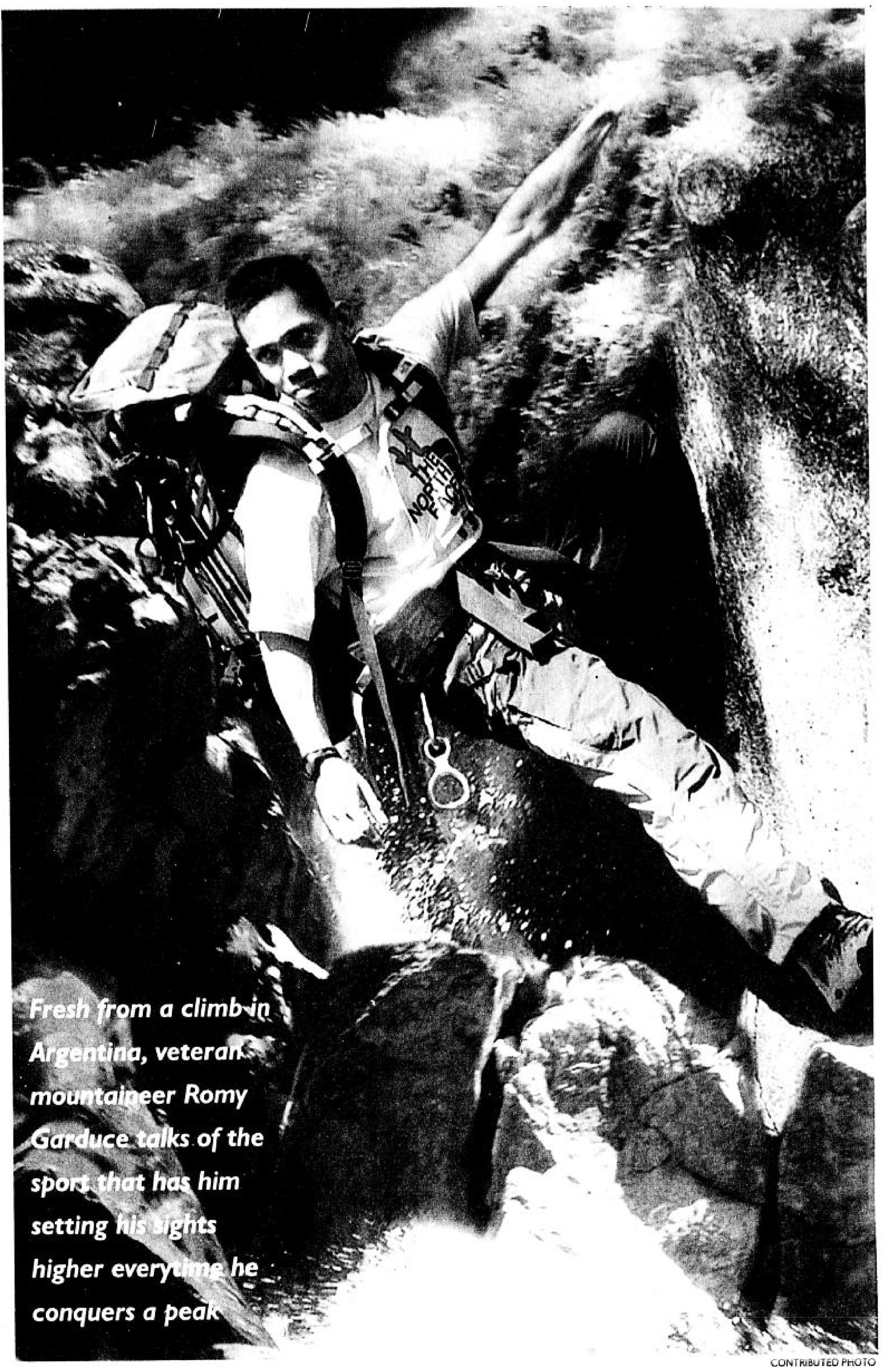


Pick a candy cane [illegible] from the Christmas tree at tee house No. 6

Adventurers

By Maria Congee S. Gomez

His Steady Climb to Glory



Fresh from a climb in Argentina, veteran mountaineer Romy Garduce talks of the sport that has him setting his sights higher everytime he conquers a peak

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"AIN'T no mountain high enough," says Romy "Garduch" Garduce with a grin. "Like the air I breathe, the summit is part of my lifestyle," says the 30-something, Bataan-born mountaineer.

Flushed from his latest conquest, he can't stop talking about Mt. Aconcagua in Argentina which, at 22, 842 feet, is considered the highest peak in South America. Successfully scaling this mountain would make him the first Filipino to have climbed the highest peak in the world, he claims.

But it's not the honor he's after, says Garduch, adding that he's not even getting any compensation for the feat. The climb, he says, is meant to raise funds for the internal medicine ward of the Philippine General Hospital.

Last year, Garduch's climb in Russia was earmarked for the Bauan Conservation Project in Anilao, Batangas. For this Argentina project, Bukas Sarili Foundation joined him to spearhead the charity work.

"We were able to get sponsors, pledges and other donations to augment the funds, but everything else is voluntary," he says. But he had to shell out a considerable amount of personal funds as well—for the tickets, the outfits and contingency expenses.

More than the expense, it is the physical and mental preparations that are crucial before setting out to confront nature, says Garduche, citing the Prana Escalante case. Escalante, a UST coed, was found dead on Mt. Halcon several days after she went missing when she decided to do a solo climb to follow her friends in Mindoro.

"I learned about Prana's case from stories and e-mail sent me by different mountaineering clubs," he says. "I put these together to carefully draw a similar study with the 1995 accident that also claimed a life on Mt. Halcon."

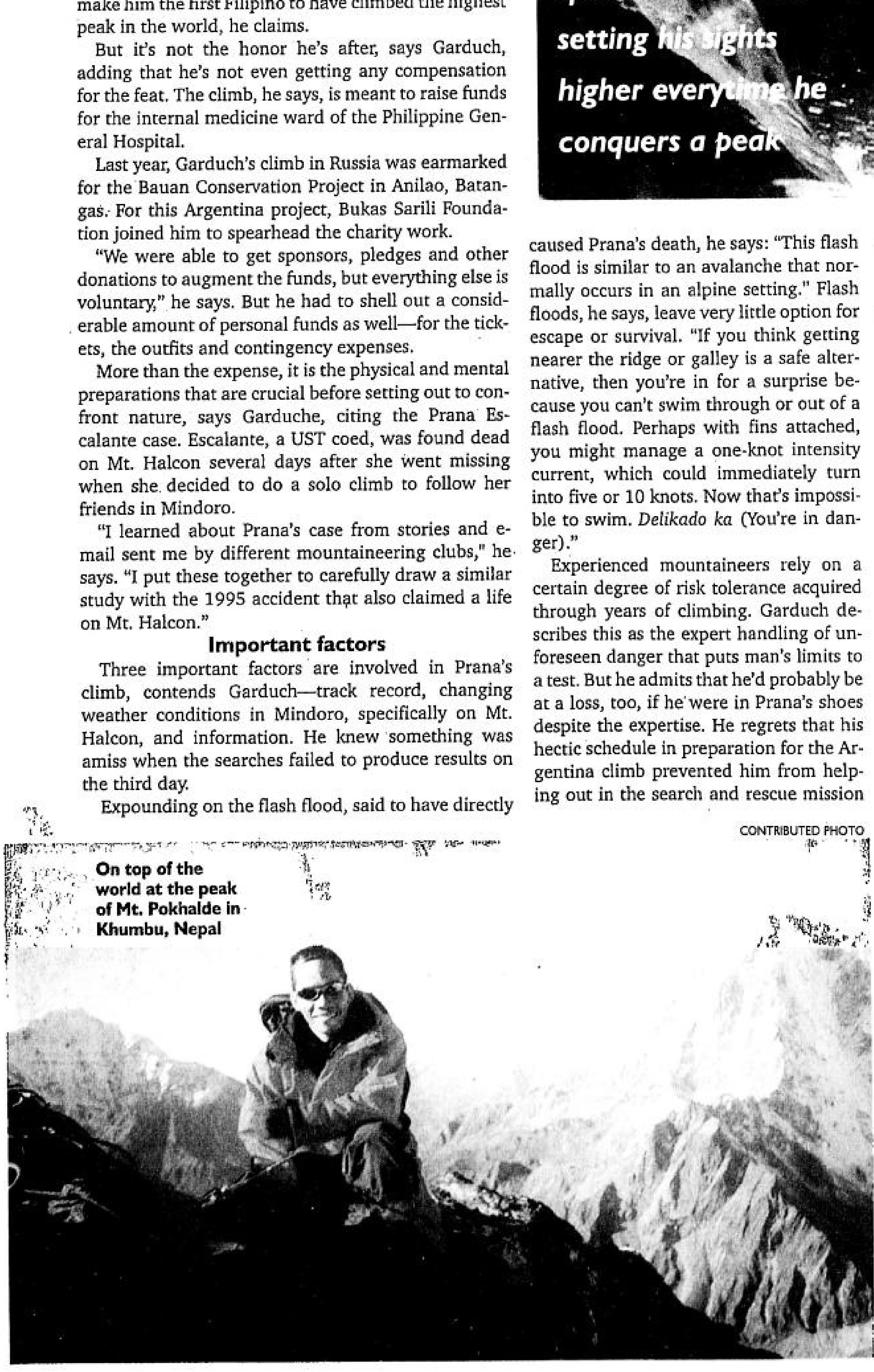
Important factors

Three important factors are involved in Prana's climb, contends Garduch—track record, changing weather conditions in Mindoro, specifically on Mt. Halcon, and information. He knew something was amiss when the searches failed to produce results on the third day.

Expounding on the flash flood, said to have directly caused Prana's death, he says: "This flash flood is similar to an avalanche that normally occurs in an alpine setting." Flash floods, he says, leave very little option for escape or survival. "If you think getting nearer the ridge or galley is a safe alternative, then you're in for a surprise because you can't swim through or out of a flash flood. Perhaps with fins attached, you might manage a one-knot intensity current, which could immediately turn into five or 10 knots. Now that's impossible to swim. *Delikado ka* (You're in danger)."

Experienced mountaineers rely on a certain degree of risk tolerance acquired through years of climbing. Garduch describes this as the expert handling of unforeseen danger that puts man's limits to a test. But he admits that he'd probably be at a loss, too, if he were in Prana's shoes despite the expertise. He regrets that his hectic schedule in preparation for the Argentina climb prevented him from helping out in the search and rescue mission for Prana.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



On top of the world at the peak of Mt. Pokhalde in Khumbu, Nepal

Not full-time

Of medium height (5' 71/2") and lean at 150 lbs., Garduch says he's not a full-time athlete. His day job as a systems manager for a multinational IT company keeps him busy on weekdays. On weekends, he squeezes in time for mountaineering under extreme weather conditions.

Despite his track record as a mountaineer, Garduch's sport was not something that his family welcomed. Brief visits to Bataan would usually end on a sour note, he says of his family's opposition to his outdoor life. But not anymore, he adds. "My family is now doubly proud of my international climbs and respects my decision."

Garduch attributes his literal climb to glory to Bernie Cabili, whom he met during frequent laps at the pool at Philam-West, Quezon City. Cabili, a senior member of UP Mountaineering Club and a playing coach of UP's swimming team, brought him along to the club's lectures and got him interested in the sport. He simply wanted to experience the joy of being surrounded by nature and nature lovers, says Garduch of the sport's initial fascination for him.

Since then, nothing has stopped him from scaling the heights. So far, he's done several peaks in Nepal, East Africa and Pakistan, including Mount Pokhalde (5,806 meters, peak), Mt. Gokyo Ri (5,320 meters, peak), Kala Pahar (5,600 meters, peak), Kongmala (5,600 meters, peak), Cho La (5,300 meters, peak), Uhuru Peak (19,400 feet), K2 Basecamp (5,400 meters), Throng La (5,400 meters) and Annapurna Circuit. He has trekked through Japan, Korea and New Zealand, tackling Mounts Fuji, Rokko, Pukansan, Daedun, Fox Glacier and Cook. An all-around sportsman, he does scuba diving, kayaking, white water rafting, rock climbing, parachuting, sailing, downhill skiing and mountain biking.

Being in peak condition has seen him through more than a decade of climbing, says Garduch. Except for a knee injury sustained in Pakistan, he's fit and considers his endurance his strongest asset.

Awe and desire

While he considers mountaineering a "macho activity," Garduch says he has gone past the point of making wishes every time he scales a peak. "I have seen and been to too many peaks that I have practically skipped making wishes," he says. Still, natural formations provoke the same awe from him and the desire to climb yet another mountain, he says.

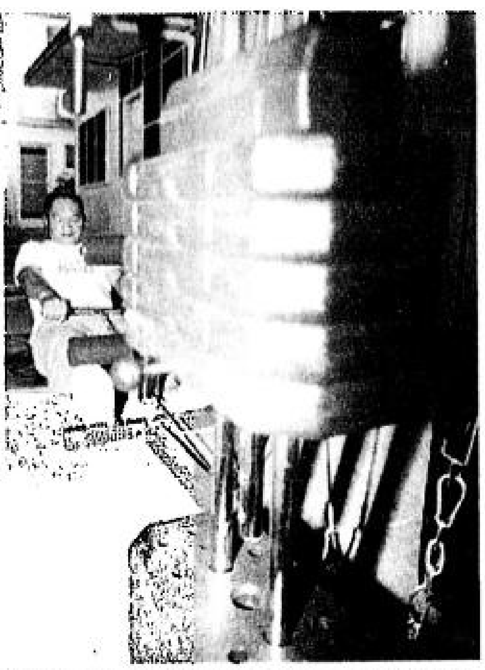
Two things Garduch regrets these days are losing the more senior mountaineers to greener pastures abroad, and missing Bubut Tan-Torres, his role model in mountaineering. The guy was Garduch's motivating factor at UPMC. Sadly, he kind of felt burned out with outdoors sports by the time Garduch joined the club, he says. "I've lost track of him. The latest I heard is that he now lives in Siargao. *Sayang*, we did not meet at all."

Beyond the regrets, Garduch feels privileged to have seen Argentina's highest peak and raise funds at the same time. He describes Mt. Alcongua's summit as being "like the roof of the world strewn with high points, scattered sculpted slopes and clouds that sail past an icy crest."

It's so beautiful, it has moved him to wish he spends his last moments among the snow-covered peaks. When the time comes, he says, he plans to leave no trace of himself. He'd rather shatter into pieces that rescuers can no longer trace, he says. "It's not too much to ask, is it?"

All Access

Text and photographs
by Randy Hormillosa



5:35 a.m.: Aglipay starts the day working with weights

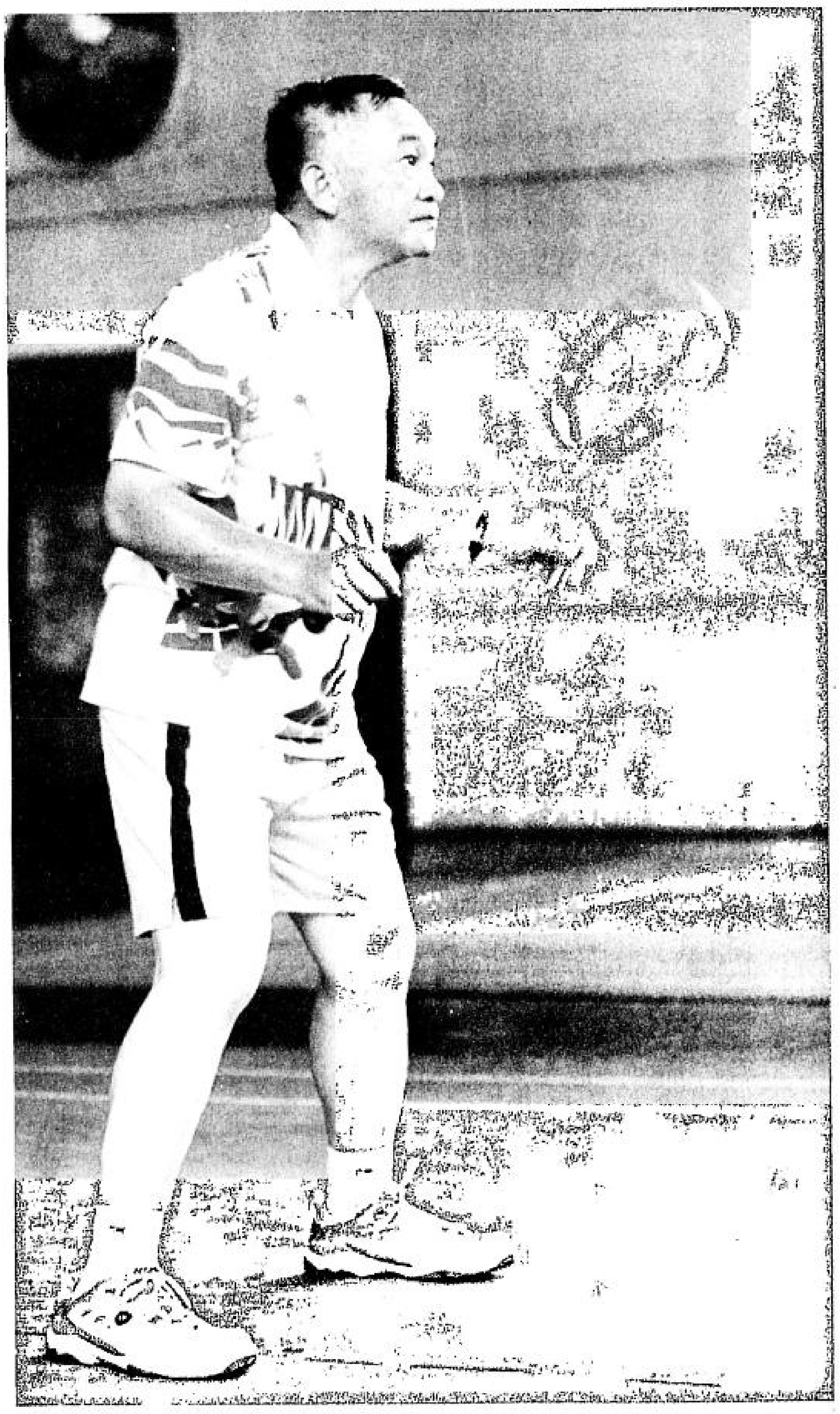
6:10 a.m.: After exercising, the PNP chief scans the newspaper while taking breakfast with wife Maui

7:05 a.m.: Aglipay makes sure he's well-groomed and that his uniform's perfect before leaving home

8 a.m.: At the Adminstration Building at Camp Crame, Aglipay attends daily mass with Maui and other PNP officials

3:10 p.m.: Ever ready to face the camera in line with his work, Aglipay converses with Rosa Rosal on the channel 4 show "Damayan"

9:15 a.m.: The man in charge checks in with his men prior to conducting an inspection of field units



6:30 p.m.: After a busy day, Aglipay still has the energy for his daily half hour of badminton at the Camp Crame gym

Game of the General

The country's top cop squeezes exercise and and family time into a full day

IF HE were a cellphone, he'd always be fully charged, claims Philippine National Police Chief Edgardo Aglipay.

At 5'10 and 190 lbs., the 56-year-old General at work is even larger than life as he takes charge of 120,000 police officers all over the country while cramming in other schedules in his usual 18-hour day.

A typical day starts at 5 a.m., with 30 minutes of weight-lifting and rowing exercises in Aglipay's house inside Camp Crame. Breakfast is quick and taken with the day's news, which leaves his wife Maui wishing he had another job.

After a daily 30-minute Mass, the General reports for work at 8, checking with key officers and having a command conference with regional directors.

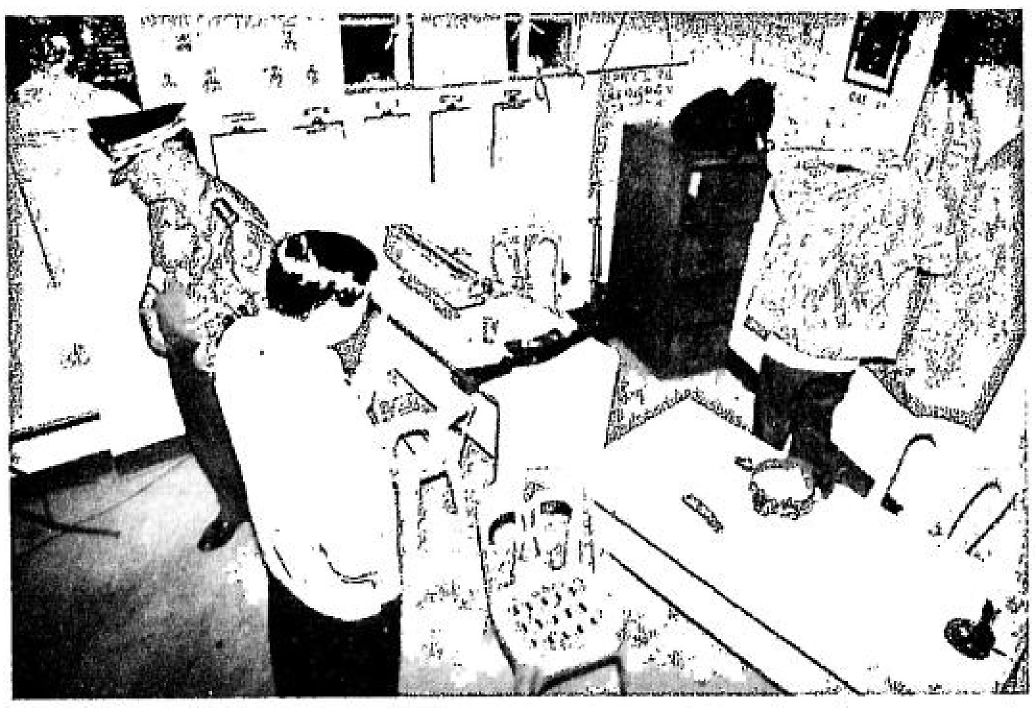
Before 10 a.m., a helicopter brings Aglipay to the parade grounds in Calamba for troop inspection in Region 4. Then it's back to Crame where a convoy of two vehicles—sirens muted—rush the General to a Parañaque subdivision for a raid on a suspected shabu lab.

Back at Crame, he holds a press conference where some suspected robbers are presented to media. Some 30 minutes later, he's at Channel 4, making a guest appearance on the public affairs program, "Damayan."

It's 4:30 now, and for the fourth time, the General is back at Crame, thiis time to meet a Muslim group led by Amina Rasul Bernardo, to discuss the controversial mosque inside the Greenhills Shopping Complex. After the meeting, Aglipay uses his cellphone to check his troops' movement and browses through the files in his office. A late afternoon badminton match closes his day at the camp.

Back home, he takes a quick shower and dines with his wife before rushing back to Channel 4 for another TV appearance. His next stop is the Hotel Intercontinental where he meets with the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines. The day is barely over. Together with National Capital Region Police General Avelino "Sonny" Razon, Aglipay conducts an inspection of different police sub-stations in Pasig until around midnight.

Home again and still fully charged, the General checks a few more files before reciting his night prayers with his wife. Finally, he calls it a day.



10:35 p.m.: Along with NCRPO Chief Sonny Razon, Aglipay drops in unnanounced on a PNp substation to make sure the cops aren't sleeping on the job

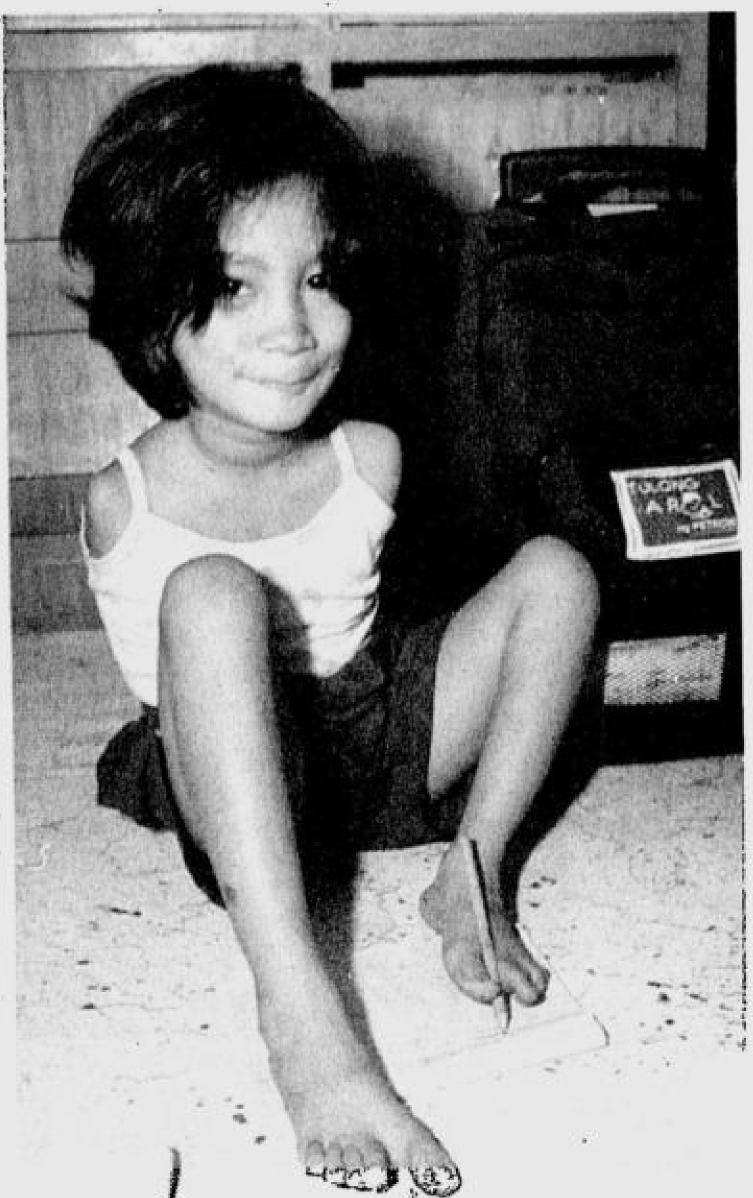
12:35 a.m.: Even though it's already past midnight, Aglipay checks documents and reports one more time at his home office

Survivors' Tales

By Bob Navarro

A Chance to Embrace a Better Future

She was born with no arms and dim chances for a normal life. Hopefully, for this determined young girl, education may just be able to change that



BETOY JOHNSON

A YEAR ago, part-time laborer Ernesto Abenojar wanted to enroll his youngest child Kris at the Almanza Elementary School (AES) in Las Piñas City, where daughters Khinski and Kathleen and son Kim were already well on their way to acquiring their elementary education.

Although Kris was beginning to learn how to read with the help of her siblings, she has one handicap, which at first almost drove Ernesto and his wife Rosario to desperation. Kris was born to the poor couple seven years ago without arms.

"We lost hope when Kris was born," explains the 34-year-old Rosario in Filipino. "We examined our conscience and asked, why did this happen? People thought I took medicine to abort the baby, but I didn't do anything."

Still weak from the delivery, Rosario was shocked to be handed an armless baby. "Doc, *baka naiwan yung mga kamay niya sa loob ko* (Doc, her arms must have been left inside me)," she recalls saying in faint disbelief.

"There was a doctor in the hospital who wanted to adopt my baby and promised to give her artificial arms. But we weren't ready to give her up. We accepted the difficulties and believed that she was a gift from God," she relates.

Kris is small for her age, but has cheery and playful eyes. As a growing child, Rosario would wonder how her daughter would grow up, almost certain that people would make fun of her. The mother was afraid that she wouldn't know how to take care of her child. Her daughter's disability bothered her very much, so her neighbors advised her to teach Kris how to read and write. "I pitied my armless baby, I wished I had been the one punished by God. I was angry. I didn't know how to take care of her."

Never to leave

After six months of depression from childbirth, Rosario gave up. Burdened by Kris' disability and coping with a difficult husband who, at that time, drank and beat her up, Rosario finally left home, leaving all her children with Ernesto.

During the time of separation, the newborn Kris became sickly and suffered from chronic diarrhea. News got to Rosario, and this made her rush back home. She prayed hard for her baby to get well and vowed never to leave again. She had been away from home for six months.

As a baby, Kris would roll her body around as she learned how to crawl. By 1 1/2, she had learned how to walk with much difficulty, balancing her weight on her legs alone. At 2, Kris was finally able to walk by herself. She also learned the extraordinary skill of using her feet to feed herself, write, and do most of the things a flexible set of hands can do.

"I taught her how to use her feet for feeding when she was one year and four months," Rosario recalls. "There was also a social worker who visited us at home and taught her how to hold a pencil with her feet. I trained her to write using her feet. She was a fast learner." Rosario relates that once they saw a man writing with his feet on TV, a sight which gave her hope.

According to her mother, Kris loves to play with her neighbors in the small community in Almanza, her new home of two years. Previously, the Abenojars lived in Factor, Almanza, a rowdy neighborhood that kept Rosario and her children home all day. In St. Mary's Homes, Almanza, the family found a normal and more peaceful life.

"Sometimes I worry because Kris loves to go out and play, but sometimes she falls because of dizzy spells," says Rosario. With no arms to support her body equilibrium, Kris is prone to falling.

Undaunted by his child's handicap, Ernesto realized that his daughter needed to study to develop her skills. He reasoned that surely AES would take exception and enroll Kris in Grade I, just like ordinary kids her age. After all, the child could already read, write and handle a spoon with her left foot. Despite her handicap, Kris learned to be independent, doing most of the things an ordinary child does. Asked if she had any difficulty, she replies, "*Wala. Naglalaro naman ako* (No, I can play)." As a child, being able to play was her measure of being normal. Her mother relates that there were times when she would question why she has no arms, which left Rosario speechless. Sometimes, her father would tease, "*Tutubo rin yan* (They will grow)." Kris is well-adjusted to her condition, and can easily shrug off comments from people. She has no inferiority complex whatsoever.

Since Kris cannot express emotions through touch and feel, however, she often withdraws from displays of affection, and dislikes being held or kissed. Sometimes when she cannot cope with child play, like running about in the streets, she throws a tantrum, frustrated and angry, but is easily appeased. During our conversation with her mother, she simply walked away when she grew disinterested. She has a mind of her own.

Generally happy

But Kris is generally a happy girl. If there is any problem she faces, it is the reality that she is physically helpless. "Her sister gives her baths in the morning and dresses her up and

To page 7

Noteworthy

HAKBAN
PANGARA
TRANS PILIPINAS 200
Takbo Mula Davao Hanggang Ilocos
5 Enero-19 Pebrero 2005
IRER
GOMBURZA
CEBU PACIFIC
Globe
AK

D-Day morning: Joy Rojas poses for a posterity shot before her run, while running partner Mat Macabe holds up the streamer

Her Run of a Lifetime

This writer is chasing after her long-time dream—and making history along the way, as the first woman to attempt to run across the Philippines

THERE were no flashbulbs, no crowds, no camera crew and no fanfare when this 38-year-old woman with a passion for the road jogged off one early morning to fulfill a long-time dream: to run across the Philippines.

Jocelyn "Joy" Rojas, a staffwriter for ABS-CBN Publishing's Metro Magazine, a favorite contributor of the Sunday INQUIRER Magazine and an experienced ultra marathon runner, took off at 4:16 last Wednesday morning,, January 5, from the diversion road outside the Davao International Airport in Davao City to begin her month-and-a-half run across the Philippines. She is the first Filipina to make such an attempt.

Rojas is accompanied by her running partner Mateo Macabe, run coordinator Jojo Martinez, and a backup driver and support vehicle. She was also joined on the first day of her run by "running Priest" and friend Fr. Robert Reyes.

Rojas' "*Hakbang Pangarap*" project will take her from Davao through Surigao, Leyte, Samar, Bicol, Quezon, Laguna, Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Pangasinan, Baguio and La Union, to conclude in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte on Saturday, February 19. The run will take a total of 46 days, with eight rest days in between, and cover more than 2,000 kilometers. Rojas and Macabe will be running an average of 50 kilometers a day.

"This has been a dream of mine for a long time," Rojas said when asked why she was making the journey. As for keeping it all very low-key, she also explained that "running is a very personal experience." It certainly has proven to be so; Rojas did much of the hands-on preparation for the run all by herself, using her personal resources and approaching potential sponsors on her own.

Rojas began running for fitness and stress relief 10 years ago. Between 1996 and 2002, she has placed among the top 10 women finishers in such prestigious 42k races as the PAL Marathon, the Milo Marathon and the Pasig River Heritage Marathon. In 1997, she joined Fr. Reyes and his Gomburza Ultrarunners on his 40-day, 1,196-km advocacy run from Guiuan, Eastern Samar to Kalibo, Aklan, "*Takbo ng Buhay,*" the only female in the group.

To train for her trans-Philippines bid, Rojas and Macabe made regular runs to Tagaytay, Nasugbu, and Los Baños. Last October 11, 2003, the team completed a five-day, 250-km run to Baguio, which Rojas wrote about in the December 14, 2003 issue of the Sunday INQUIRER Magazine.

As a tie-up with the Department of Education, which is sponsoring Rojas and her team in some places along the route, Rojas will make stops to speak to public school children about pursuing one's dreams and the values of education, sports and a clean, healthy lifestyle. She is also supported by Adidas, Akbayan, Cebu Pacific, Globe, Gomburza, her alma mater St. Scholastica's College, and the Sunday INQUIRER Magazine.

The first Filipino to run across the country was Cesar Guarin, owner of the sportswear store Botak, who ran from Zamboanga to Davao in 39 days in 1983, a total of 2,247 kilometers. Fr. Reyes' own trans-Philippines run was divided into three legs: a peace run across Mindanao in 1996, a Visayas run for the environment in 1997, and a freedom run through Luzon in 1998.

Rojas does not dwell on the fact that this is a true record attempt. "My only goal is to reach Pagudpud running—and to see the Philippines, of course!"

ABH

A Chance

...from page 6

when she feels like passing water, we remove her underwear for her," Rosario says.

But Ernesto had another problem. Income from his part-time job and a small *sari-sari* store he and his wife had put up could hardly cover the day-to-day expenses of the family, more so the expenses of sending another child to even a public school. At 14, his eldest son Mark could only help run the family's little store.

When Ernesto got wind of the 2004 recruitment for the Tulong Aral ng Petron (Send-A-Child to School) program in AES, a program sponsored by the Petron Foundation Inc. (PFI), he took courage and presented Kris to the school officials. Although the school only grants scholarships to poor but enabled children selected from Department of Social Welfare and Development's Kalahi Day Care Centers, the school principal gave the case of Kris a second look. In June 2004, Kris was accepted as a scholar despite her handicap.

Kris, who wants to follow in the footsteps of her young and patient teacher Lorevie R. Francisco, has since adjusted to her new environment, learning how to read, write, do basic math and sing like the 55 other scholars in her Grade I class. When asked if she feels different from her classmates, she says no. This confidence she developed, as her mother constantly teaches her not to mind those who tease her, and warns her not to get into fights with other children. "She doesn't mind them so she won't be affected by the teasing." In fact, she has gained a lot of friends in the neighborhood and in school, claims her mother.

"In Almanza Elementary School alone, we have a total of 83 scholars," said Badette Pabustan, PFI project officer. "In 80 schools in Caloocan, Las Piñas, Malabon, Navotas, Parañaque, Mandaluyong, Manila, Pasay, Pateros, Quezon City, Taguig and Valenzuela, we have so far enrolled 2,060 kids from the poorest of the poor families."

A moving story

But Pabustan admits that the number of children they have reached is just a drop in the bucket considering that in Metro Manila alone, there are about 516,000 out-of-school youth aged 6 to 12 in need of help.

The Tulong Aral ng Petron Program intends to grant 1,000 scholarships annually to Grade I students. Each student will be supported until he or she finishes elementary education. A new batch of 1,000 students will immediately succeed each batch of Grade I students until 6,000 scholars would have been selected. Assuming a dropout rate of 7 percent, the program would have graduated a total of 5,043 scholars on its sixth year.

"Each child has a moving story to tell and we at Petron are glad to be able to help," concludes Pabustan.

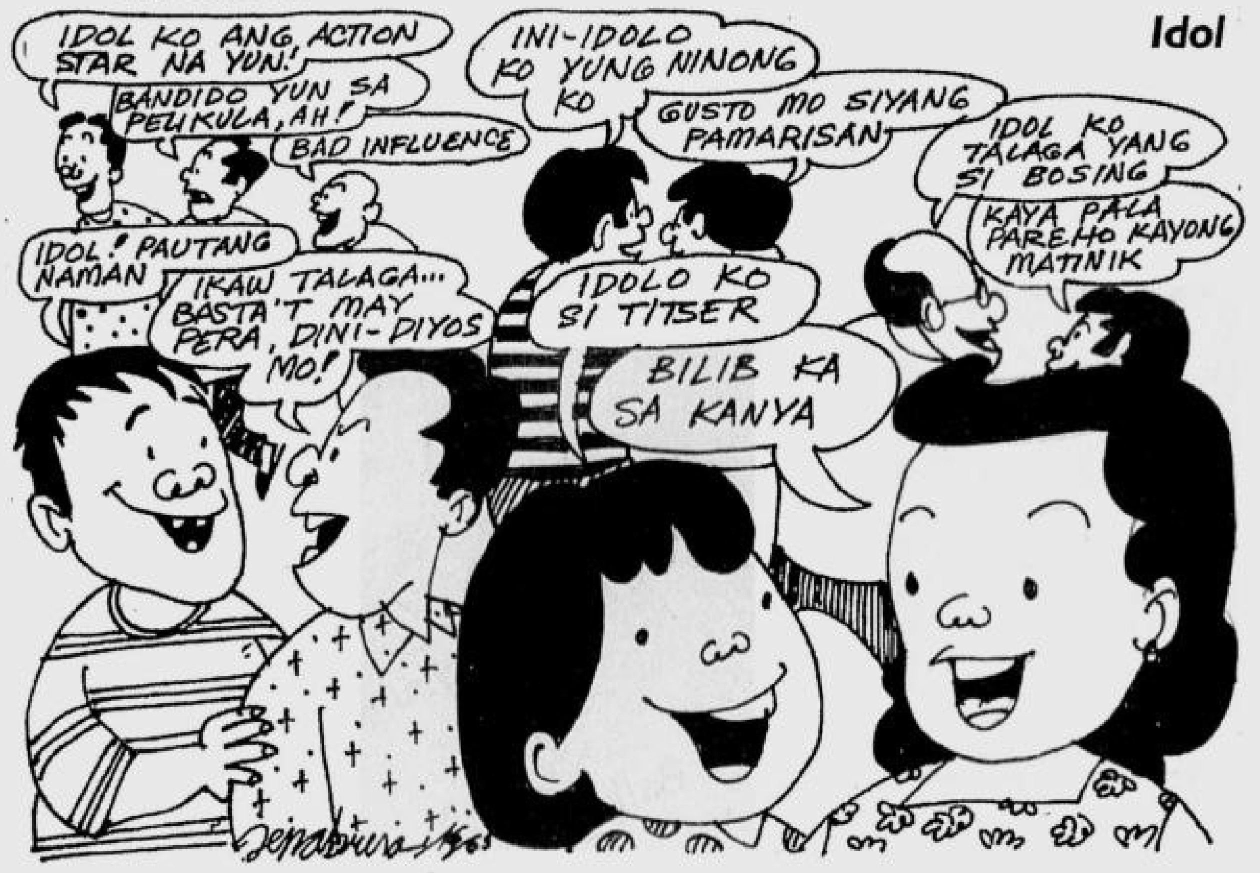
For the Abenojars, their hope for Kris when she was still an infant was simple: "We hoped that she would grow healthy and learn how to take care of herself and be happy despite her handicap," Rosario says.

There are still moments when Kris would sit in the corner of their 10-square meter home, sad eyes looking out the window. In these moments, her mother leaves her alone to sort out her thoughts and feelings, as if already knowing the agony she is going through. When asked what makes her sad, Kris says in Filipino, "I feel sad when I can't play. I want real hands, not plastic." And if that is not possible, what makes her happiest, she says, is "when I'm in school. I miss my friends. At home, I have nothing to do. I want to go back to school." Thanks to education, hands or no hands, Kris now has the chance to embrace a better future.

Pinoy Nga

By Jess Abrera

Idol


IDOL KO ANG ACTION STAR NA YUN!
BANDIDO YUN SA PELIKULA, AH!
BAD INFLUENCE
INI-IDOLO KO YUNG NINONG KO
GUSTO MO SIYANG PAMARISAN
IDOL KO TALAGA YANG SI BOSING
KAYA PALA PAREHO KAYONG MATINIK
IDOL! PAUTANG NAMAN
IKAW TALAGA... BASTA'T MAY PERA, DINI-DIYOS MO!
IDOLO KO SI TITSER
BILIB KA SA KANYA

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

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Jayvie

...from page 2

mad. What, is it against the law to get bored or get tired?" she says. Though currently mentored by two coaches, Jayvie is monitored by her father constantly. "I'm a perfectionist and I want her to be more serious in her golf because everyone is saying she has a future in golf. I'm just helping her to get on the right track."

Yet all that changes come tournament time, says Jun. "Practicing and doing the tournaments is very different. When she's competing, all of her concentration is on how she will defeat the course, instead of her opponent." Jayvie doesn't play golf for fun. She likes winning and gets surprisingly serious out on the course at crunch time. "When I'm playing, I remind myself what I need to do," she explains. "So my swing gets better." Some of her performances have involved remarkable rallies, such as her coming back from a five stroke hole to beat Anya Tanpinco in sudden death at last month's Samsung Amateur Tour Class A division in Cebu. At the Puerto Rico-based 2004 Women's World Amateur Team Championship, Jayvie carded the lowest score in the final round to lift the Philippines to a more respectable 18th finish.

Not only does she seem to transform when it's time to perform, she gets emotional out on the greens, crying after rounds full of bogeys and rejoicing, eyes as big as CDs, when she wins. Even though she doesn't admit it outright, golf does matter.

US offers

And that golf has garnered serious attention elsewhere in the world. Several US schools made offers, and it eventually came down to a choice between Purdue University and Pepperdine University, both US National Collegiate Athletic Association Division 1 schools. She inked a letter of intent with Pepperdine because the school is located in Malibu, California where the weather is warm and one can play golf all year round. "It's close to Los Angeles, and I have a lot of relatives in LA." The student-athlete will be competing for the Green Wave golf team even as she tackles the rigors of her course, International Studies, which, incidentally, she plans to finish. For Jayvie, it's a challenge of a different sort: She'll be on her own, so she will have to wash her own clothes and she doesn't even know how to cook. "It's for my future, but it's sad because I grew up here and I'll be away from my family and friends."

Vicky will miss her daughter, noting in particular that Jayvie is picky about her food (*sinigang na baboy* and yakiniku beef top the list) and won't be able to just eat these all the time at Pepperdine. It's like she and Jayvie are *magkabarkada* (peers), Vicky says. Though she doesn't attend the tournaments, Vicky is always at church, praying for her daughter. But she understands that the trip is necessary. "*Sayang yung* potential *niya*."

The separation will actually be quite hard for Jun. "I'm really happy about it, because not everyone is given a chance to study abroad and for free and I want her to experience studying abroad," he says. "I'll bring her there. But just the thought that we will be separated hurts me very much. Imagine, we started being together all the time when she was still 9. I cannot control my tears sometimes because I get very sentimental. But I want her to do this for her future and also for her to be liberated. Sometimes she doesn't understand but I know someday she will appreciate all I'm doing for her," Jun says. "I know that she can do it."

In preparation for a big event like next week's RP Ladies Open, Jayvie goes into what she calls "career mode." Everyday practice at Southwoods, 400 balls a day, 18 holes, practicing her short game—the list goes on. "It's really hard," she says. Jun explains that to get to the LPGA, one has to suffer, that top pros like Vijay Singh and Tiger Woods toil constantly to better their games. "With your talent now, no one can beat you here," Jun told his daughter. But the LPGA will be different and the NCAA is her next step.

Giving 100 percent

Jayvie considers her ability to work around the sand traps her best quality and Jun says that she does good work with irons. Jun adds that when Jayvie wants to do something, she gives 100 percent. After saying that Jayvie has J-Ro-type promise, Arcano says that her "passion for the game is something, and with her dad giving her all the support they're a potent combination. J-Ro was also skinny before but in time she developed power. Jayvie can score well because she's accurate and her short game is fantastic."

Jayvie humbly says that she still needs to work on "everything." Arcano thinks Jayvie needs to overcome her relative size handicap and work on "her power off the tee. She'll need the extra beef because she's petite, typical *na* Pinay. What makes the Koreans different is that they work out often which gives them tremendous length off the tee. She also needs to focus and decide if she really wants to make golf a profession."

That's the question, really. Jayvie says that if she can, she'd want to become a tour pro, with all the possible endorsement deals and the big money. She's had offers for a possible career as a commercial model, but so far she hasn't bitten, though the prospect interests her. And when not obscured by a visor, it is clear that with her deep black eyes, cheekbones and winning smile, Jayvie's a showbiz natural. "I wanted to be an *artista* when I was younger," she admits. She actually had a small part in a movie when she was young but adds that she isn't interested in showbiz anymore. "I just want her to try golf because I know she can make it, but if golf doesn't materialize, then it's really up to her," Jun says. "But whatever she decides to do in her life, I will support her one hundred percent."

Yet when asked how far she wants to take her golf career, Jayvie honestly seems unsure. "I really don't know," she answers with a frown. "If my game improves, maybe." She sometimes understands what she needs to do to become one of the game's new young guns; other times, she just wants to have what everyone else has.

For now, however, there are tournaments to be won, practice to endure and a young, extraordinary life. "I've been enjoying myself *naman*," she admits, and adds that winning is what she enjoys the most. With that, Jayvie Agojo quickly swings her attention to one of her phones as she excitedly makes plans for the evening, ready to go places.

Love Notes

By Joe D' Mango

Tempted and Tortured

One night my best friend's wife got drunk and we kissed. After the kiss, I found myself in an affair that changed my life

Dear Joe,

Just call me Rupert, a college student from the university belt. I had a best friend named Noli who had a wonderful wife named Lara. Meanwhile, I had a girlfriend. Noli's job called for him to be away for about two months, so he told me to watch over his wife and kid. During that time I realized I was starting to like Lara. When Noli was already abroad my girlfriend and I broke up. I had a couple of drinks, and guess who was there to comfort me. Yes, it was Lara. Noli heard about the break-up, and he knew that we were drinking with some friends. Lara was drinking because of Noli, and I was drinking because of my ex. One night when she got drunk, we kissed. After the kiss, I found myself in an affair that changed my life.

We agreed that when Noli came back, it would be over. When Noli came home, I tried to break it up with Lara but she was hesitant to do so. Noli was so kind to me I couldn't look him in the eye; I felt so guilty. Lara and I decided to go back to school to have a world of our own. Our classmates didn't know about the situation and thought we were just typical sweethearts. We hid the relationship for almost two years until one evening when Lara asked me to come for some drinks because Noli was already sleeping. I came over and Noli caught us together. But instead of hitting me, he just told me to get out of his house. But it didn't end there, Joe. Lara was so into me that she said she'd leave Noli for me. Well, I told myself that the affair is not doing us—or her child—any good. So I ended it for everybody's sake. I heard that Noli has forgiven Lara and they are still together.

I'm happy for them and I admire Noli for his kindness. After the affair, I tried to get over Lara and had a few relationships, which all failed.

I lost a best friend and a lover at the same time and I'm still guilty over what happened. So many questions are still left unanswered. Does Lara still love me? Did that affair make me less of a man because I gave in to the temptation?

Sincerely yours,
Rupert

Dear Rupert,

Honestly, being tempted into an affair with Lara didn't make you less of a man. It was betraying your best friend that made you less of what you are. Asking yourself if Lara still loves you means that you are still carrying emotional baggage that you should have left behind a year and a half ago. This might be the reason behind all those failed relationships that you tried to get into.

Rupert, some of us miserably fall into the lure of affairs because, most of the time, we resist looking at the bigger picture just to satisfy ourselves. Having an affair with your best friend's wife clearly shows that you were just there to enjoy what you wanted without considering the trust on which you and Noli have built your friendship. You have taken advantage of Lara's vulnerability in the absence of her husband to suit your own desires. You were able to succeed and even made her want you more than Noli, but at what price—the loss of your friendship and the guilt that is haunting you until now.

Rupert, the only way to find peace is to ask for forgiveness and to learn to forgive yourself. We all make mistakes and hurt other people but, at the end of the day, the person who acknowledges his faults and asks for pardon is able to move on and reconcile with his conscience.

Rupert, remember that every time you think of how Lara feels for you, you are actually reopening that book which should have been closed and burned a long time ago. Let your best friend and his wife live in peace. That is the least that you can do to make up for all the pain that you have caused them.

May we all realize that it is not the mistake that Lara or Rupert have committed that makes this story. The real lesson here is the lesson of love that Noli has faithfully and consistently shown. Love does not seek revenge, nor does it keep a record of the wrong that we have done. Love is always kind. And most of all, love is always forgiving. No matter how deeply we have been hurt by people around us, love will always be able to accept and forgive. This is the greatest power of love. And this is what should give hope to all of us who have hurt and have been hurt by others.

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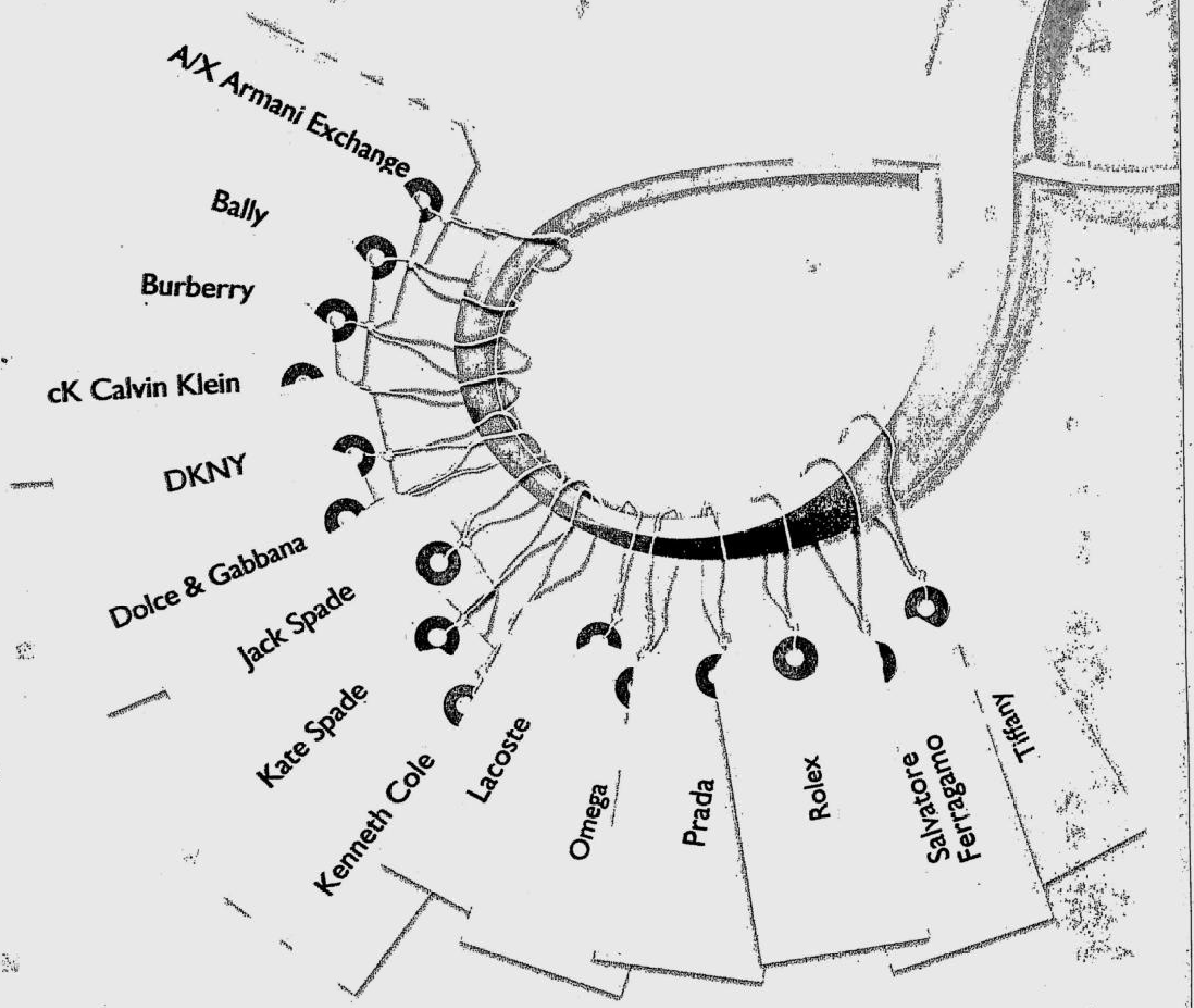
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